



A Timeline for DIYing Event Flowers

Everyone's timeline may vary a bit, but here's some general direction to take with the planning process for DIYing your event flowers:

6+ Weeks Out

- Make a detailed list of all the floral elements you want at your event. This list could include things like the number of bridal/bridesmaid bouquets, the number of boutonnieres, the number of corsages, the number of hair flowers/crowns, the number/type of ceremony flowers, the number of cocktail table arrangements, the number of dinner table arrangements, any cake flowers, etc.
- Decide on the style of your table arrangements and start sourcing vases. If you're not sure of exactly which vase you might want to use, get a sample of a few different styles and try them out with some flowers. Certain types of vases are easier to arrange flowers in than others. Don't just rely on pictures on a website. Get your hands on the actual vase before committing to it.
- Decide what colors you'll want for your flowers and what your overall vision might be ("loose and airy" or "compact and low" or ??). If you're expecting people to help you do the flowers, it's a good idea to write this all down so you can hand them a sheet of paper if you need to run off to get ready for your rehearsal dinner.
- Decide where you will be sourcing your flowers. If you are hoping to use flowers from a local farm, make sure to touch base with the farmer and make sure you have a reservation with them as they might book up for your event date.

3-4 Weeks Out

- Order your vases if you haven't already. Also order any other floral supplies you might need, such as florist tape, glue, wire, ribbon, buckets for holding the flowers when they first arrive, crates/boxes for transporting the arrangements, etc.
- Rally your troops: ask people to help and give them a concept of what days/time you'll need their help. Enlist someone to help take the "lead" if you find yourself overwhelmed and just can't handle something stressful at the last minute.
- Get a solid game plan in place for how you are going to transport your flowers. Do you need to rent a van? Make a reservation now if you do.



- Do at least one, ideally a few, test runs of making your bouquet, a centerpiece and maybe a corsage or boutonniere. Practicing will really help you feel more confident and it will also help you plan for exactly how many flowers you need to order. Maybe you can even use your bridal shower as a good way to use the flowers you create during a trial run.

1+ Week Out

- Place your flower order.
- Confirm with all your helpers what the timing will be.
- Prep your vases – make sure any stickers are removed and they are clean. Put tape grids on them or cut your chicken wire if using.

2-3 Days Out

- Get your flowers. If they are being shipped to you, you'll need to carve out some time in your schedule to open up all the boxes, cut the stems, and place in buckets of water. If you are picking them up from a farmer, you'll not need to do this.

2 Days Out

- Work on creating your centerpieces and any other arrangements that will be in a vase. Give yourself plenty of time for this.

1 Day Out

- If you are having a wedding, work on all the “wear and carry” floral designs, such as the bridal bouquet, bridesmaid bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages, and hair flowers. Again, give yourself plenty of time.

Day Of

- Carefully pack your flowers into an *appropriately sized vehicle* and transport to the venue. Unload the flowers and set them into place. Make sure to add water to the vases so they have plenty to drink throughout the event.
- Clean up after the event. Enlist some friends to do this! And encourage guests to take flowers home with them to make clean up easier.



General Tips for DIYing Event Flowers

- Have good, sharp snips/scissors for each person helping with arranging the flowers.
- Have sturdy tables on which to work. You'll need a lot of space when arranging with flowers.
- Have a plastic drop cloth to put down under the area where you are working to make cleaning up at the end super easy and quick.
- Whenever you are storing your flowers, keep them in a cool, dark spot. A basement or air-conditioned room with the blinds fully closed works well. Do NOT store your flowers in a fridge. You're more likely to harm your flowers in a cooler than you are to help them.
- Make sure your flowers have plenty of water to drink. Check the level of the water in the buckets and vases frequently. Flowers drink a lot of water and if they don't have enough, they wilt!!
- Keep your flowers away from any ripening fruit or veggies (bananas, peaches, tomatoes, etc). These give off an odorless gas that will cause some flowers to drop their petals.
- Re-cut the end of each stem before you put it in the vase when arranging it. This gives the stem fresh surface area from which to better drink water.
- While you shouldn't store most of the flowers in a fridge, once you've made any boutonnieres, corsages or hair flowers, store those in a ziplock bag in the fridge to keep them fresh. Do not let them touch the sides of the fridge though as they might freeze.
- Do NOT put your bouquet in the fridge though! It could very well get damaged in there. Just keep it in a cool, dark place until showtime.
- Have a broom and a big garbage can handy while working with the flowers. There's usually a big mess involved when working with flowers.
- Give yourself LOTS OF TIME!!! Making your own flowers can be a lot of fun when you've got time to relax and enjoy it. Making your own flowers can be hell if you're down to the wire and super stressed out.
- Order a few more flowers than you think you'll need. Flowers can easily get damaged. It's also no fun to design flowers when you have to "skimp" and struggle to find enough stems to make a vase look nice. No one ever suffered from having too many flowers. So order some extras.