

The Backyard Wedding Countdown

Transform your lawn into a fully functioning venue from day minus seven to the last dance.

Managing a home event requires a strict production schedule so you aren't frantically stringing lights at the last minute. This guide maps out your exact site clearances, electrical checks, and layout needs.

● Clearances & Timing

24 in

Width per long table setting

36 in

Clearance inside the tent perimeter

90 min

Schedule vows before sunset

3 days

Final lawn mow before event

48 hours

Stop automated irrigation systems

Support Your Overhead Lighting

String a tensioned steel guide wire between wooden poles first, then zip-tie commercial bistro bulbs directly to it to prevent drooping or snapping in evening gusts.



● The Production Timeline

- 1 **Day -7: Flag Sprinklers** Mark hidden pop-up heads with tiny coral flags so heavy delivery trucks know where not to step.
- 2 **Night Before: Load Test** Run lights, speakers, and catering warmers simultaneously for a full hour to check for tripped switches.
- 3 **Ceremony: Golden Hour** Exchange vows at the scheduled time to capture flattering natural lighting for your outdoor family portraits.
- 4 **Cocktails: Immediate Bar** Open the bar and pass light appetizers right after the recessional to prevent awkward milling about.
- 5 **Reception: The Last Dance** Draw guests to a snap-together dance floor positioned directly beneath the brightest cluster of overhead lights.

● **Baseline Space Requirements**

Guests	Usable dining footprint
50	600 sq ft
75	900 sq ft
100	1,200 sq ft

Always round up your canopy size if your measurements fall on the border.

● **Match Canopy to Layout**

Find your row: **Your layout type**

Your layout type	Your pick	Why
Plated Dinner	20x30 foot tent	Leaves room for service walkways
Buffet Style	30x30 foot tent	Accommodates extra food station space
Mixed Seating	30x40 foot tent	Balances varied chair push-out depths
Long Tables	40x40 foot tent	Provides 1600 total square feet

● **Crucial Site Checks**

- ☐ Measure yard twice, factoring in low-hanging branches and uneven slopes.
- ☐ Map exterior circuits to identify which outlets share the same breaker.
- ☐ Route heavy catering equipment to an isolated indoor breaker using extension cords.
- ☐ Confirm your canopy rental includes attachable solid sidewalls for rain contingencies.
- ☐ Assess if spongy soil requires renting a modular wooden sub-floor.

● **Vendor & Layout Notes**

Here's to a beautifully seamless evening under the stars—enjoy every single moment!