



STEP-BY-STEP REHEARSAL DINNER GUIDE

Step 1: Understanding Your Role

Traditionally, the groom's parents host the rehearsal dinner - but this is flexible. Some families choose to co-host or share expenses. Before anything else:

- Confirm who is hosting & what role you'd like to play
 - Align with the couple on guest count, style, and tone of the event
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Step 2: Set a Budget & Choose a Venue

Once roles are clear, you will then need to set a realistic budget & choose a location with the couple. Here are a few things to consider with each:

Budget

- Venue Rental
- Food & Drink
- Decor
- Music / Entertainment

Venue

- Proximity to the ceremony rehearsal
 - Vibe (formal, casual, moody, etc)
 - Whether it offers food and drink or if you'll need outside vendors
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Step 3: Finalize Guest List

Typical Attendees include:

- Immediate Family
 - Wedding Party & their partners
 - Officiant (if close to the couple)
 - Out of town VIPs (optional)
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Step 4: Plan the Details

Now comes the fun part:

- Choose the format: plated dinner, buffet, cocktail-style
- Select the menu: consider dietary restrictions and preferences
- Coordinate drinks: open bar, hosted tab, or specialty cocktails
- Arrange decor: keep it simple, elegant, and cohesive with the weekend
- Create a timeline



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Step 6: Send Invitations

- Formal paper invites, digital invites, or even a group text - whatever fits the vibe!
 - Send 4-6 weeks in advance
 - Include date, time, location, attire, and RSVP info
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Step 7: Coordinate Toasts or Speeches

Rehearsal dinners are more casual than the wedding & often include heartfelt speeches. Consider these:

- Parents of the groom (or hosts) welcome everyone
 - Close family/friends can give informal toasts
 - The couple could also speak!
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Step 8: Confirm Final Details (1-2 weeks out)

- Finalize headcount with caterer/bar
 - Reconfirm timing with venue & vendors
 - Print menus or place cards (if needed)
 - Prepare any gifts or special touches
 - Touch base with the couple to ensure everything feels good!
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Step 9: Host & Enjoy

Arrive early to greet vendors, help with setup (if needed) & welcome guests

- Keep the tone warm & relaxed
- Encourage mingling between both families
- Be present, take photos, and soak in the moment

Remember, this is your time to celebrate *with* the couple not just for them!