

Invitation

Tips & Advice

Your invitations really should be perfect when you send them out. If you slack on the design or any part of it, your guests might think you skimmed on inviting them.

I have decided to create this {PDF} for some advice and general tips for your wedding invitations.

Directions, Please?

#1 Include a Map

Having a map in your invite is just plain common sense. If you don't include one, your guests will call you the entire time to find out, make sure and double-check. Imagine on the day of the wedding - your phone will be ringing non-stop.

#2 Not a Google Map

If you're going to include a map, why don't you design one or ask someone to help you with this. Simply going on Google Maps and printing out the map and directions will look like you rushed through inviting your guests, plus, it won't match your gorgeous stationery, will it?

Google Maps is fine if you're going to use it as a frame of reference for your map designs and directions.

#3 Pinpoint it

Be super specific about where the venue is. More often than not, there's a map included in the invite, with directions, but somehow it is still an endless struggle to find the venue.

#4 Coordinates

We live in the age of technology - use it! You can never go wrong with including the GPS coordinates in your

invitation. Almost everyone have access to some form of GPS and can type it in quick as a last resort.

Moneywise

#5 Don't Ask for Cash

It is considered very rude to ask for some form of payment in your invitation. No matter how you put it, with hearts and ribbons and a cute, little poem. It's still wrong. If someone wants to give something, there should be a contact number by the RSVP contact info.

#6 A Real Budget Cutter

If you don't want to spend so much money on invitations, why don't you take it all online? Nowadays, you get stunning websites that specifically cater for brides. You can even create your own website with Wix or WordPress and plenty of others. Make it interactive so that guests can RSVP there and get all the info they need.

If you still want to make it fancy, why not send out the invitations by hand, with all the website details inside. That way it's still formal and according to wedding etiquette.

#7 A Hidden Cost

One thing you should be aware of is the hidden costs lurking behind sending invitations - postage fees! You pay by weight, so including that amazing jewelled brooch in your boxed invitations might cost you a lot. Even so, you will pay for bandwidth for your website as well, so you really just have to compare the options.

#8 Spend it

On the other hand, if you really want to impress, go all out on your invitations - it is your first impression, after all. Make it detailed and gorgeous, include stationery sets, beautiful paper and embellishments.

Superb Design

#9 Choose a Readable Font

There are so many amazing, free fonts out there that you might want to use all of them at the same time. Don't. Why not rather choose a clean font, paired with a handwritten font? Or go with a font that matches your theme? Your end goal here is to make sure that your guests can actually read your invitations.

#10 Two Envelopes...

Remember to include an envelope within the envelope. Your guests need to RSVP in some way, and if you include an RSVP card, they need an envelope to send it back in.

#11 Match it

Everything should match to avoid making your wedding look like an April Fool's joke. Check on Pinterest for some lovely stationery sets to get an idea of how it should look.

You can match paper and envelopes with beautiful lettering and embellishments.

RSVP-ing

#12 Be Clear on the +1

Many people are unsure whether or not they can bring someone with as a plus one. So, to avoid all the dreaded calls and e-mails, clearly state on the envelope or inside the invitation the person's name and a "+1" next to it.

#13 A line for a song

This is totally optional, but it may be a cute way to keep guests entertained. On your RSVP card, make sure there is a line for the name of a song which the guest would like to dedicate to you. Even if it's not played at your wedding, you can still listen to the song in your own time. The other option is to compile a CD with all the dedicated songs on and give it as wedding favors to your guests.

#14 Do them a favor

On the RSVP envelope, make sure to include a postage stamp. You don't want your guests to be obligated to feel they need to pay for something at your wedding, even if it's only a postage fee. They are already giving you something just by being there.

#15 Mention the Children

Another uncertainty is if guests can bring children or not. Even if the envelope only states the parents' names, be clear on if they can bring their children. If no children are allowed at your wedding, say so on the invitation.

The Details

#16 Include Every Little Detail

Rather include too much info than too little. If it's an open bar or cash bar, mention it somewhere. If the wedding is outside and no shading is provided, mention it - guests may

bring hand fans and put on sunscreen. If no alcohol is going to be served at your wedding, say so. Guests shouldn't make up their own idea of what to expect at your wedding.

A disappointed guest will leave early.

#17 Check, Double-check, Triple-check

Make sure everything is perfect and pristine on your invitations. Check all the spelling make sure you included the same things in each and every invitation. If you are getting your invites printed professionally, double check that everything is correct. They don't phone and ask about spelling, they just print!

#18 Mention the Formality

Many women dread the "what to wear" subtext when it comes to weddings. They need to know what formality it will be. If it's black tie, mention it. If you want your guests to wear a specific color, say so in the invitation.

Logistics

#19 Have Enough

Always have enough extras of everything - invitations, envelopes, stamps, etc. Maybe you bump into an old friend when you go shopping and you completely forgot to put her on the list... Or someone's invitation got lost in the mail and you only found out on the RSVP date... Or your cat decided to bump your desk and your coffee spills over everything... Anything could happen.

#20 Send it out in time

Don't wait until 3 weeks before the wedding, it will be too late. And if you send it out too early, guests will forget about your wedding and make other plans on that weekend. The norm is 6-8 weeks before the wedding.

The Recipients

#21 Save the Dates

This is popular if your wedding is going to be at a far off place and people will have to make travel and accommodation arrangements for it. Or you invite your cousins from Australia and they need to apply for VISA's, etc. Also, don't send out Save the Dates to people whom you are not going to send invitations to.

#22 A Reunion?

Your wedding is not a family or high school reunion. Don't invite everyone whom you have ever met in your life. It's your wedding, and you want to spend it only with the ones who are special to you. So save the catching up with your primary school best friend for another time. The worst is ending up with a crowd of strangers and acquaintances at your wedding.