

Invite Right

*Everything you need to know
to create flawless
wedding invitations,
announcements and more*



*Wording & Etiquette By
The Wedding Stationery Experts
at Storkie Express, Inc.*



Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Engagement Announcements	5
Writing a Newspaper Engagement Announcement & Wording	5
Etiquette for Acknowledging Family.....	6
When to Announce Your Engagement.....	7
Where to Announce Your Engagement	7
Guidelines for Including an Image	7
Chapter 2: Wedding Save the Date Cards	9
What to Include on a Save the Date Card	9
Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests	11
When to Order Wedding Save the Date Cards.....	11
When to Send Save the Date Cards	12
Popular Save the Date Card Wording	12
Chapter 3: Wedding Invitations	14
What to Include in a Wedding Invitation	14
Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests	15
When to Order Wedding Invitations.....	16
When to Send Wedding Invitations.....	16
Popular Wedding Invitation Wording	17
Popular Wedding Invitation Wording	21
Response Cards.....	22
Popular wedding invitation response card wording.....	22
Invitation Assembly.....	23
Postage.....	25
CHAPTER 4: WEDDING RECEPTION ONLY INVITATIONS	26
What to Include on a Wedding Reception Invitation	26
Wedding Reception Invitation Formats	27

When to Order Wedding Reception Invitations 28

When to Send Reception Only Invitations 28

Popular Wedding Reception Invitation Wording..... 29

CHAPTER 5: WEDDING REHEARSAL DINNER INVITATIONS..... 31

What to Include in a Wedding Rehearsal Dinner Invitation..... 32

Rehearsal Dinner Invitation Format..... 32

Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests 33

When to Order Rehearsal Dinner Invitations 33

When to Send Wedding Rehearsal Dinner Invitations..... 33

Popular Wedding Rehearsal Dinner Invitation Wording..... 34

Other Wedding Week Activities 35

Chapter 6: Wedding Party Invitations 36

What to Include in a Wedding Party Invitation 37

Wedding Party Invitation Format 37

When to Order Wedding Party Invitations..... 38

When to Send Wedding Party Invitations 38

Popular Wedding Party Invitation Wording 38

CHAPTER 7: BRIDAL SHOWER INVITATIONS 40

What to Include in a Bridal Shower Invitation..... 41

Bridal Shower Invitation Format..... 41

Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests 41

When to Order Bridal Shower Invitations 42

When to Send Bridal Shower Invitations 42

Popular Bridal Shower Invitation Wording..... 43

Chapter 8: Bachelor Party Invitations and Bachelorette Party Invitations..... 44

What to Include in a Bachelor or Bachelorette Party Invitation 44

Bachelor and Bachelorette Party Invitation Format 45

Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests 45

When to Order Bachelor and Bachelorette Party Invitations 45

When to Send Bachelor and Bachelorette Party Invitations..... 46

Popular Bachelor and Bachelorette Shower Invitation Wording 46

CHAPTER 9: WEDDING CEREMONY PROGRAMS 47

 What to Include in a Wedding Program..... 47

 Wedding Ceremony Program Format 48

 Wedding Program Etiquette..... 48

 When to Order Wedding Programs 49

 Popular Wedding Program Wording..... 49

CHAPTER 10: WEDDING THANK YOU CARD ETIQUETTE..... 53

 How to Prepare for Wedding Thank You Cards..... 53

 What to Include in a Wedding Thank You Card..... 54

 Etiquette for Acknowledging Gifts..... 54

 Etiquette for Acknowledging Money 54

 Who Receives a Wedding Thank You Card..... 55

 When to Order Wedding Thank You Cards 55

 When to Send Wedding Thank You Cards..... 55

 Popular Wedding Thank You Card Wording..... 56

Chapter 11: Wedding Announcements..... 59

 What to Include in a Wedding Announcement 59

 Wedding Announcement Formats..... 60

 Etiquette for Acknowledging Recipients..... 60

 When to Order Wedding Announcements 60

 When to Send Wedding Announcements..... 60

 Popular Wedding Announcement Wording..... 61

CHAPTER 1: ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newly engaged and want to tell the world? Create an engagement announcement! A newspaper engagement announcement is one of the first opportunities for a couple to announce their engagement to the public using their local and city press. We are here to help the process of choosing engagement announcement wording and submitting the announcement to the press easy.

To begin, contact the news source in which you plan on placing the announcement. You can reach them by phone or by using an internet search engine with the query *[newspaper to which you would like to submit] + engagement announcement*. In some cases such as the Los Angeles Times, the newspaper provides a form for you to fill out, which they use to compile your wedding details into their own newspaper format. In other instances, particularly with smaller newspapers, the submitter may choose the engagement announcement wording.



Storkie Tip: While the brides' immediate family traditionally takes on the responsibility of finding the appropriate newspaper(s) and writing the piece, today, more and more couples submit their own announcements.

Writing a Newspaper Engagement Announcement & Wording

Since newspapers charge by column size, it is in your best interest to be concise. Typically written in the past tense (since the engagement has already occurred), the announcement is from the point-of-view of the party hosting the wedding, traditionally the parents of the bride-to-be.

Details to include

- Month and year of expected wedding date (only include the wedding date if wedding venue is secure prior to the announcement)
- Person Officiating
- Place and city of wedding
- Bride's name
- Bride's city, state
- Bride's age
- Bride's parents
- Bride's parents' city and state of residence

- Bride's schools, degrees and organizations
- Bride's current employer and occupation
- Groom's name
- Groom's city, state
- Groom's age
- Groom's parents
- Groom's parents' city and state of residence
- Groom's schools, degrees and organizations
- Groom's current employer and occupation
- Honeymoon
- Couple's future city of residence

Etiquette for Acknowledging Family

Since the announcement comes from the point-of-view of the wedding hosts, the first sentence in the engagement announcement wording may change based on the family dynamics. For instance, a standard wedding announcement might say:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith of New York, New York are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Jane Smith, to Jonathan Jackson, son of David and Elaine Jackson of Canterbury, New Hampshire. Ms. Smith, a graduate of Wellesley College, is a curator for a private art gallery in New York City. Mr. Jackson graduated cum laude from Columbia, and practices in the Law Offices of Franklin, Murray in Brooklyn, New York. An October wedding is planned.

However, sometimes family dynamics are not as simple. Below are suggested announcement introductions for alternative circumstances:

Acknowledging a divorced parent of the bride or groom

Ms. Debora Smith is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Jane Smith, to Jonathan Jackson... Ms. Smith is also the daughter of Joseph Smith of New York. (Place this line at the end of the announcement.)

Storkie Tip: You are not obligated to mention both biological parents.

Acknowledging a remarried parent of the bride or groom

Ms. Debora Smith and Mr. George Bell announce the engagement of Ms. Smith's daughter, Jane Smith to Jonathan Jackson... Ms. Smith is also the daughter of Joseph Smith of New York.

Acknowledging a deceased parent of the bride or groom

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith of New York, New York are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Jane Smith to Jonathan Jackson, son of Elaine Jackson and the late Mr. David Jackson of Canterbury, New Hampshire.

If the couple is hosting the wedding, or if this is a second or third marriage

Jane Smith, a curator for a private art gallery in New York City, is to be married to Jonathan Jackson, a partner at the Law Offices of Franklin, Murray in Brooklyn, New York. Ms. Smith is the daughter of Mr. Joseph Smith of Lincoln, Nebraska and Mrs. Debora Smith of Orlando, Florida. Mr. Jackson is the son of David and Elaine Jackson of Canterbury, New Hampshire. An October wedding is planned.

When to Announce Your Engagement

Traditionalists recommend that you announce your engagement at least two to three months prior to the wedding date.

Where to Announce Your Engagement

- In the local newspaper where you currently reside. If the bride and groom live in two different cities, create an announcement for each paper.
- Alumni magazines or college newspapers – especially if the bride and groom graduated from the same school.
- News sources near extended friends or family members.

Storkie Tip: Selecting an image where couple's heads and eyes are on the same level will create symmetry in the picture.

Guidelines for Including an Image

Submitting a photo with your engagement announcement will cost extra, but it's an exciting way to make your announcement stand out in the newspaper and introduce friends and relatives to your fiancé.

Here are a few guidelines for submitting a photo with your engagement announcement:

Submitting a photo by mail

- Include couple's name and date of wedding on back
- Include photographer's name if credit is required
- Avoid images with red-eye
- Avoid busy or loud backgrounds
- Images should be sharp and in focus
- Ideal photos are an 8x10 vertical picture

Submitting a photo by email

- Save photo in a JPEG file format
- Minimum 300 DPI at 8x10 size
- Include photographer's name if credit is required
- Save the image file using the couple's last name and "engagement announcement photo"
 - **Example:** Smith-Jackson_engagement_announcement_photo.jpg

CHAPTER 2: WEDDING SAVE THE DATE CARDS

Wedding save the date cards are designed to give key members of your guest list a heads-up that your wedding is on the horizon so they have ample time to plan for it. A relative newcomer to the wedding invitation process, save the date cards bounded onto the scene in the early 2000s when destination weddings and three-day-weekend wedding events increased in popularity.

In general, save the date cards include enough information on the wedding to allow guests to make necessary arrangements to get to your wedding in advance. This is especially relevant if you are planning a destination wedding, if the majority of your guests are coming from out of town, or if you're going to get married in a popular tourist or vacation locale where accommodations may be hard to come by.



What to Include on a Save the Date Card

A wedding save the date card needs to include the important details of your wedding: who is getting married and where.

Details to include

- The names of engaged couple
- Date(s) of wedding event
- City and state/country of the wedding
- Venue of the wedding
- The phrase "formal invitation to come"

If you are planning on hosting a large number of guests from out-of-town, or have decided to have a destination wedding, including information on accommodations and transportation is appreciated. This could include:

- Convenient airports
- Transportation options from airports to lodging

Storkie Tip: Including "formal invitation to follow" ensures guests do not confuse the Save the Date card with a wedding invite

- Lodging options
- Transportation from lodging to wedding venue
- Phone numbers and websites for relevant businesses

Wedding Save the Date Card Format

Because there is not a long tradition around them, the etiquette regarding save the date cards is flexible. Even in the case of a very traditional or formal wedding, a save the date card can be informal and casual if a couple wishes. Couples can choose to match the theme or color of their formal wedding invitations, or be more creative.

Popular Save the Date card formats:

- Photo cards featuring the engaged couple
- Postcards
- Magnets – just make sure to include "contains magnet" on the envelope
- Themed

Storkie Tip: As couples become more internet savvy, personal wedding websites are a popular and easy way to disseminate important wedding info.

Add "More Wedding Information at Our Website" to your save the date cards – just be sure all the recipients have internet access!



Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests

Who receives save the date cards

You should only send save the date cards to people who will later receive an invitation. It is gauche to send a save the date card and then neglect to send that person an invitation because you changed your mind – in addition, it will be confusing to a guest who may think the card is their invitation. Send save the date cards only to the people you definitely want at your wedding.

Storkie Tip: Sending save the date cards more than twelve months in advance increases the risk that guests will forget the event.

Acknowledging guests only invited to the wedding reception

Guests who are not invited to the wedding ceremony but who still need to make arrangements to attend the wedding reception should receive a save the date card. Specify that these save the date cards are for the reception or party, and not to the ceremony so there is no confusion as to which event the guest should attend.

Acknowledging a guest and their significant other

If guests will be required to take time off from work or make extensive travel arrangements, use save the date cards to indicate who will be invited to the upcoming wedding.

If a couple lives together but have different last names, address the envelope to both guests. If a couple does not live together, you can send a save the date card to one of the guest's address and include their significant other in the salutation, or send individual save the date cards to two addresses.

Acknowledging an Adults-Only wedding

An adults-only wedding requires guests with children to double up on their planning – how to get themselves to your wedding, and where to leave their children while they are gone. It is imperative to let guests know that they will need to make other plans for their kids.

Address the save the date card to the adults you wish to attend and leave off their children's names. In addition, consider using the following line:

We hope the two of you will be able to join us.

When to Order Wedding Save the Date Cards

Save the date cards should be ordered as soon the wedding plans have been finalized, including dates, times, venues and any necessary travel or lodging arrangements. Order enough to invite your entire guest list with 15 to 25 extra. Check out our [Wedding Save the Date Cards](#) at Storkie.com when it's time to order!

When to Send Save the Date Cards

Wedding save the Date cards should be sent out 4 to 6 months prior to the date of a local wedding, and 9 months to a year prior to a destination wedding.



Popular Save the Date Card Wording

Local wedding

Save the Date
for the wedding of
Jamie Stenton & Lettie Maryfield

Saturday, May 25th, 2010

Tacoma Train Station
Invitation to follow

Destination wedding

*Save the Date
Saturday, July 13th
For the Wedding of
Anna Marin and Ricky Jones
We look forward to sharing our special day with
you!*

*Special rates have been arranged at the Hyatt Inn
in downtown Atlanta.
Please mention the Marin/Jones Wedding Block
Rate when making reservations.*

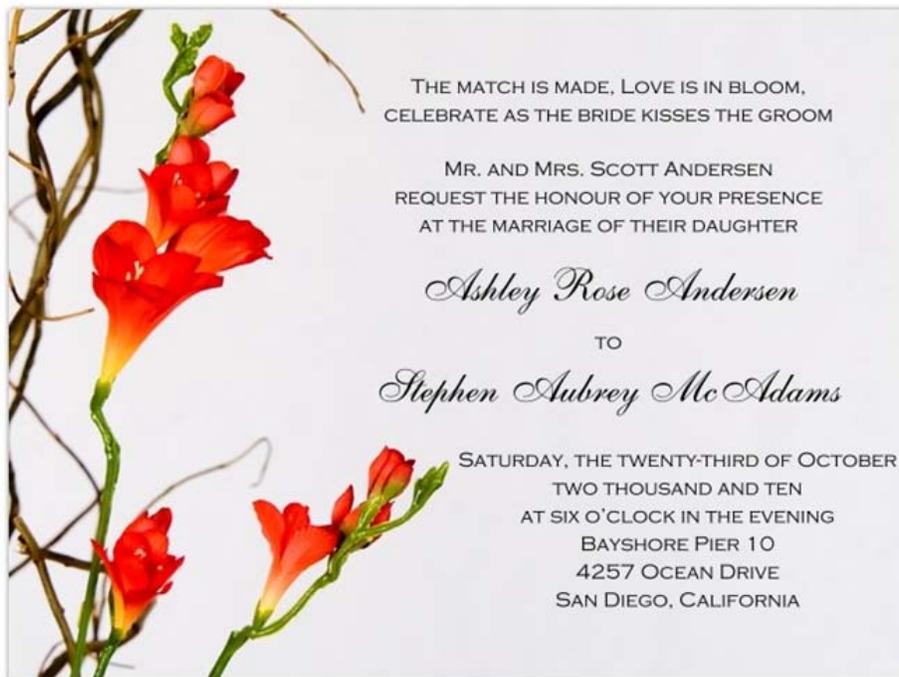
*Hyatt Inn
2555 Central Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 12354
559-848-4651*

Invitation to Follow

CHAPTER 3: WEDDING INVITATIONS

Wedding invitations can be the most mind-boggling part of the wedding planning process. Inner envelopes, outer envelopes, response cards, oh my!

First take a deep breath and remember that wedding planning is supposed to be a joyful time. And recruit reinforcements – your wedding party and parents can help you narrow down your guest list, format, and address your invitations. Make it fun and throw an "invitation celebration" – a Sunday afternoon where your wedding party gathers to assemble and address your invitations. (Serve food once everyone is done addressing the invitations - you don't want coffee stains on your wedding invites).



What to Include in a Wedding Invitation

Here are the components you'll need to begin constructing your invitations.

Wedding invitation components

- Inner Envelope
- Outer Envelope
- Wedding Seal
- Postage (for outer envelope)
- Postage (for response card)

Storkie Tip: If you wish to invite a couple who do not live together, it is acceptable to send one invitation to the person the marrying couple is closest to, following these same conventions.

Sending two separate invitations is also acceptable.

- Insertions
 - Tissue Paper
 - Reception Card
 - Map or Directions Card
 - Response Return Envelope
 - Response Card



Storkie Tip: No matter what the theme, you should always address your invitations by hand in a neat, legible script and use black ink. Many couples choose to have their envelopes professionally addressed by a calligrapher. Calligraphy is the art of elegantly curved handwriting and adds a stylish, sophisticated touch to formal invitations.



Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests

Your wedding invitations will reflect your wedding, be it a casual barefoot-on-the-beach bash or a traditional church ceremony. While etiquette can be flexible when acknowledging guests depending on how formal the ceremony is, following traditional conventions mean you will avoid any faux pas no matter the theme.

Acknowledging a couple with different last names

On the outer envelope, list the recipients in alphabetical order. Include titles, first names, middle initials and last name.

Mrs. Jane B. Keening
Mr. Paul D. Simon
 2350 Wicker Lane
 Nublie, Texas 45224

On the inner envelope you can either list in alphabetical order *Mrs. Keening and Mr. Simon* or *Jane and Paul* depending on the level of formality you desire.

Acknowledging a single woman, a divorcée or a widow

Single women should always be referred to with the title "Ms" on the outer envelope.

Divorced and/or widowed women who have kept their husband's last name can be addressed as either "Mrs." or "Ms.," but it is polite to find out which title they prefer before you send your invitations.

On the inner envelope, the same title with her last name can be used, or just her first and last name sans title.

Acknowledging doctors

Doctors are indicated with the prefix "Dr." If two people in a couple are doctors and share the same last name, the outer envelope can read:

Drs. Roberts
 55 Main Street
 Waltham, MA 02885

If the doctors do not share the same last name, list both guests in alphabetical order with the prefix "Dr." leading both names.

The inner envelope can read either *The Roberts* or *Dr. Meyers and Dr. Steven* accordingly.

Acknowledging children

Young children do not need to be included on the outer envelope, especially in the case of a very formal wedding. To ensure your guests know their children are invited, include the children's names on the inner envelope, following the names of any adults.

Acknowledging a guest's guest

Particularly in the scenario of a very formal wedding, it can be considered gauche to include "*and Guest*" anywhere on the wedding invitation. It is encouraged to find out the name of any significant other that may be attending your wedding, and write their full name on the wedding invitation.



Storkie Tip: Addressing a wedding invitation to only one person will indicate that you only expect that one person will attend the wedding.

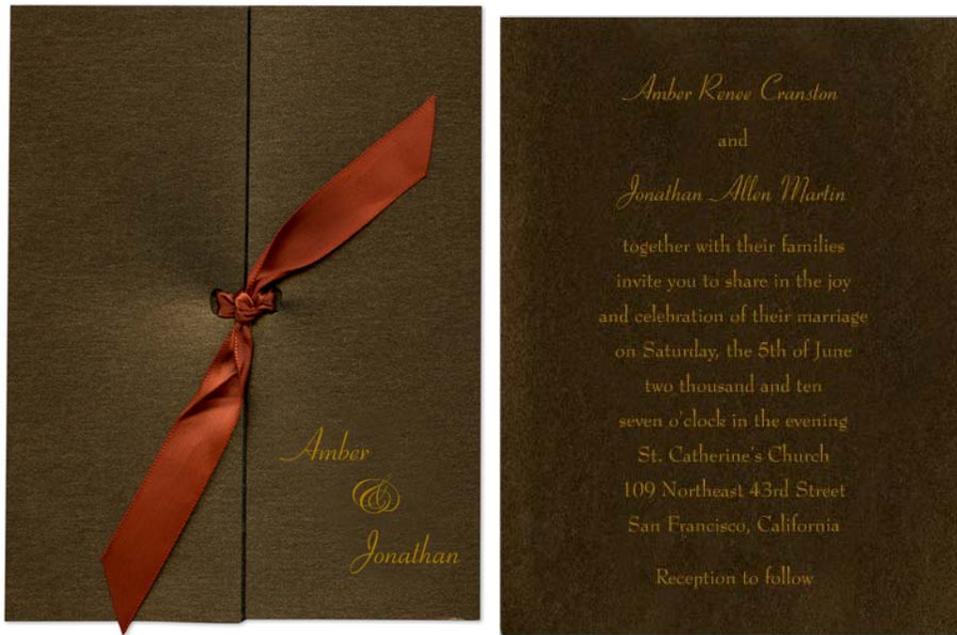
For this reason, it is helpful to discern the names of any significant others or children and include them on the invitation and/or its inner envelope if you wish them to attend.

When to Order Wedding Invitations

Wedding invitations should be ordered as soon as the date of the ceremony is set and the guest list has been confirmed. This generally should occur three to fourth months prior to the wedding date. Take a look at our [Wedding Invitations](#) at [Storkie.com](#) when it's time to order!

When to Send Wedding Invitations

Wedding invitations should be mailed six weeks prior to the wedding date and in the case of destination weddings, a few months prior to the wedding. Request to receive guests' response cards no later than three weeks prior to the wedding date.



Popular Wedding Invitation Wording

Now that you understand the wedding invitation assembly process, make every word count! Even the most seasoned grammar girl can feel intimidated when it comes to writing wedding invitations, but all you need to do is follow these simple steps.

1. Write the invitation through the voice of the host

Normally, the first two names that appear on a wedding invitation are those paying for the event. Traditionally, this is the parents of the bride, so it would read:

Mrs. Sarah and Mr. James Buckley

Otherwise, if the bride and groom host the event, the invitation would read:

Ms. Jane Beth Smith and Mr. Samuel Lawrence Michaels

Or

*Together with their families,
Jane Smith and Sam Michaels*

Storkie Tip: It's common for wedding invitations to a Jewish ceremony to favor the word "and" in the place of "to".

2. Request that your guests attend your wedding

Common etiquette dictates the wedding ceremony venue determines the "request line" in your invitation. If your wedding takes place in a house of worship, your invitation should read:

*Request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter*

If the ceremony takes place in a secular location, the wording should read:

*Request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter*

Or

*Would be elated for you to attend
the marriage of their daughter*

If the ceremony is informal and hosted by the parents:

*Would be delighted by your presence
at the wedding of their children*

If the bride and groom are hosting the event:

Invite you to attend the celebration of their marriage

3. Tell your guests who's getting married

If the parents of the bride are hosting, write out the first and middle name of the bride, followed by the groom's title, his first and middle name.

*Jane Beth
to
Mr. Samuel Lawrence*

Storkie Tip: Women always go first when using the first name. For a more formal feel, add the middle name of the bride and groom to the introduction.

4. When will you be getting married?

When writing a date and time in an invitation, it is more formal to spell out each element:

*Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July, two thousand and ten
at five o'clock in the afternoon*

Always remember to capitalize both the day and the month. If you plan a wedding at 3:30 pm, the invitation should read:

Half past three o'clock in the afternoon

5. Where are you getting married?

For small locations, or if the wedding takes place at a residence, write out the full address:

*The Golf Club Inn
7654 Thompson Road
San Francisco, California*

If the wedding takes place at a well-known location, you can choose not to include the address:

*The Space Needle
Seattle, Washington*

6. When is it time to party?

Whether you choose to include your reception information on the wedding invitation, or on a separate reception card, the text should notify the guests where the reception will take place, and if you will be serving a full meal.

If the reception takes place at the same venue as the ceremony:

Reception to follow in the Rose Room

If you are not serving a full meal at the reception, the invitation will read:

Dessert and dancing to follow

Or

And afterwards for cocktails and cake in the Rose Room

If the reception takes place at a separate location, or if the reception doesn't immediately follow the ceremony, the invitation would read:

*Reception
Seven o'clock*

*Seasons Grand Hotel
123 Alpine Road
Rogers, Montana*



Popular Wedding Invitation Wording

Formal wedding invitation

Mrs. Sarah and Mr. James Buckley

*Request the honour of your presence at the
marriage of their daughter*

*Jane Beth
to
Mr. Samuel Lawrence*

*On Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July, two
thousand and ten
at five o'clock in the afternoon*

*The Golf Club Inn
7654 Thompson Road
San Francisco, California*

Reception to follow in the Rose Room

Casual wedding invitation

*Together with their families,
Jane Smith and Sam Michaels*

*Invite you to attend the celebration of their
marriage*

*On Saturday, the twenty-fourth of July, two
thousand and ten at Half past three o'clock in the
afternoon*

*The Space Needle
Seattle, WA*

*Reception
Seven o'clock*

*Seasons Grand Hotel
123 Alpine Road
Seattle, Washington*

Response Cards

Response cards are included with the wedding invitation so guests have an easy way to inform their hosts if they will be attending.

Popular wedding invitation response card formats

Postcards or small cards are the most popular formats for response cards. Both should come pre-stamped and pre-addressed, and in the case of a card, with its own envelope. The return address on a response card can be printed, rather than hand-written.

Storkie Tip: Number your guest list and pencil a tiny, corresponding number on your response cards. That way, if someone sends in a blank response card, you can easily cross reference it with your guest list.

Popular wedding invitation response card wording

Fill-in-the-blank response cards are the most convenient way for the wedding host to confirm who will be attending the ceremony.

Details to include

- Space for guests to write guests' names
- Space to indicate whether guests will be attending or declining
- Date by when guests should reply
- Space for guests to include a personal note

Storkie Tip: In the instance of a very formal wedding, response cards can be considered inappropriate.

Include

*The favour of a reply is requested by
June 16, 2006*

on the invitation, and guests will be responsible to respond in their own way.

Popular wording examples

Formal response card wording

The favour of a reply is requested
by June 16, 2010.

M_____

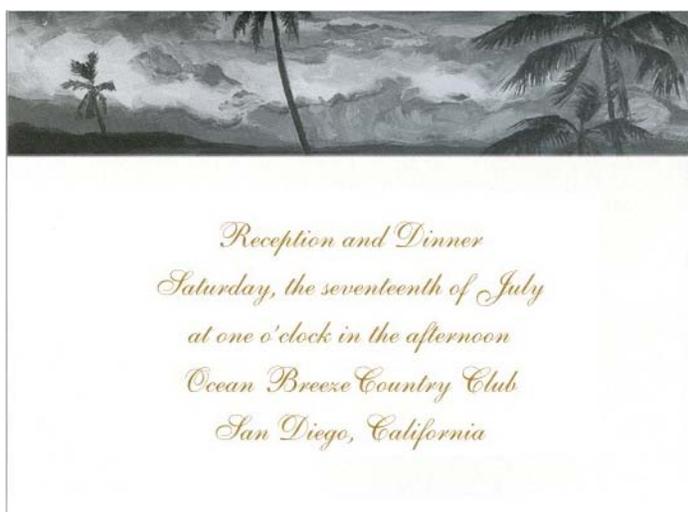
___ Accepts with pleasure

___ Declines with regrets

Casual response card wording

____is/are looking forward to dining, dancing,
and celebrating
____has/have to miss the fun

Kindly reply before June 16, 2010



Storkie Tip: If you're suffering from envelope overload, consider our convenient Inventions Wedding Invitation Pockets and Wraps.

Invitation Assembly

Get organized before you begin addressing, stamping and sealing envelopes. Clear off a table and place your insertions in the order in which they go. No more than two people should be working on your invitations at any time because it creates confusion.

Create piles of your insertions and make sure that each pile has the same count – if you have a stack of 150 invitations, make sure you have a stack of 150 of everything else.

Inserts (in order from top to bottom)

- Tissue Paper
- Reception Card
- Map or Directions Card
- Response Return Envelope
- Response Card

Wedding invitations have two envelopes - both an inner and an outer. All of your insertions are enclosed inside the inner envelope with the printed side facing the flap.

If your invitations are single fold (that is, one single card) with the wording on the outside, your insertions are placed on top. If your invitations are multi-fold with the wording inside the first fold, then your insertions are tucked under the first fold.

The inner envelope

All family members who are invited should be included on the inside envelope. The inner envelope contains the wedding invitation, reception card, response card, and/or direction cards.

The outer envelope

Outer envelope encloses the inner envelope and the entire wedding invitation package.

Reception cards

Reception cards, printed with the reception venue and time, are inserted with the wedding invitation into the inner envelope.

Directions and map cards

In the age of GPS and online maps, sending out directions to your wedding is no longer a necessity, but it is a courtesy. If you choose to send out directions or map cards, enclose them with the invitations – no extra envelopes needed.

Do not seal the outer envelopes until you make sure all your counts are even. That way, if your insertion piles don't have the same count, you could go back and see which invitation is missing an insert.

Response Card/Printed Return Address Envelope

Response cards, if you choose to have them, are enclosed with the invitation, tucked under the flap of the response envelope. Postage is included on the response envelope and the response envelope is printed with the address of the person(s) organizing the guest list. It does not have to be the same address as on the invitation envelope. This way, your guests can easily drop their responses off at the nearest mailbox.

Wedding Seals

Wedding seals add an elegant finishing touch to your invitations and help define the personality of your big day. Affix your wedding seals to the back of the outer envelopes – when all the assembling is complete. You can also put wedding seals on your thank you notes, programs, and wedding favor boxes.

Postage

Your postage will depend on the number of enclosures and the weight of your invitation. You may need extra postage. When you first purchase your invitations, bring a fully assembled invitation to your post office where they will weigh it and tell you precisely how much postage is required. Peruse their decorative stamps and see if you could tie in the stamps with your wedding theme. We also have customized wedding stamps ready-for-order that add a fun finishing touch to your wedding invites.

Also, don't forget to purchase the stamps you'll need for your response envelopes!

Storkie Tip: When you mail your invitations, request that they be hand canceled with a rubber stamp. Your envelopes will look more attractive and won't have any of those unsightly, machine-made black marks.



CHAPTER 4: WEDDING RECEPTION ONLY INVITATIONS

One romantic (and cost-cutting) wedding trend for many couples is to plan a small, private wedding ceremony followed by a larger, more public reception. As ideal as a private wedding might seem, it is easy for feelings to get hurt and resentment to brew when certain friends and family members learn they won't get to see you walk down the aisle.

Wedding reception invitations can make some soon-to-be newlyweds tremble in horror of hurting a guest's feelings. Have no fear! There is a tasteful and tactful way to write reception only invitations.



What to Include on a Wedding Reception Invitation

Reception only invitations need to include the most important information about the reception: who the reception celebrates and where it takes place.

Details to include

- The host's name
- The names of the engaged couple
- Day, date of month and time
- Name of the reception venue
- Reception venue address

Storkie Tip: For a formal feel, always spell out the numbers in the date and time. For example, "the reception will take place at half after two o'clock on the twenty-first of June, two thousand and ten."

Many newlyweds use wedding reception invitations to celebrate nuptials after a destination wedding or an elopement. It is common for reception only invitations to include where and when the wedding took place if it occurred on a separate date.

You will also want to include some method for your guests to R.S.V.P. to recognize their attendance and to plan the reception accordingly. Always include the name and phone number of the person hosting the event.

Wedding Reception Invitation Formats

The rules of etiquette dictate that you have a few options when inviting guests to a private ceremony and a public reception. One way is to issue two separate invitations: one only to the ceremony and one only to the reception. Those invited to both the ceremony and the reception should receive an invitation to both events, while those only invited to the reception should receive the single reception invitation.

Another option is to write special reception only invitations that acknowledge the wedding itself has already taken place, and that the guest is welcome to join the reception afterward.



When to Order Wedding Reception Invitations

Order reception only invitations at the same time as your wedding ceremony invitations.

When to Send Reception Only Invitations

If you are planning a small ceremony with a public reception directly after, send the reception only invitations along with the wedding ceremony invitations no less than three months before the wedding date (and at least ten weeks in advance of the wedding for guests living overseas.)

As for newlyweds who celebrate their wedding well in advance of the reception, send out reception only invitations three months in advance of the reception date.

Storkie Tip: To honor or to honour?

It is popular for wedding invitations to favor the British "u" in both honour and favour.

If you're sending your invitations within the United States, it does not violate any etiquette code if you'd like to drop the extra "u" for the more conventional spelling.



Popular Wedding Reception Invitation Wording

Formal - private ceremony with public reception

*Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Williams
are honored to announce
the marriage of their daughter,
Ariel Williams
to
Jonathan Laurence Brown
on Saturday, July Seventeenth, Two-Thousand and Ten.
The couple will exchange vows
in a private ceremony.*

*Please join them for a reception
celebrating their union
at six o'clock in the evening*

*The Golf Club at Newcastle
15500 Six Penny Lane
Newcastle, WA 98059
(425) 793-5566*

Casual - private ceremony with public reception

Guy Meets Girl

For the rest of the story...

Please join us at our reception following the
ceremony on Saturday, the ninth of
October, two-thousand and ten
At four o'clock in the afternoon

424 N. Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI 02840-6924
(407) 877-1000

As Robin
And Daniel
Celebrate their marriage

Formal - destination wedding with bleated public reception

*Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly
are privileged to announce the marriage of their
daughter*

*Julia Kelly
To
Michael Alex Thompson*

*on Saturday, the twelfth of June , two-thousand
and ten.*

*The couple was joined in marriage in a private
ceremony in Florence, Italy.*

*Please join them for a reception celebrating their
nuptials on Saturday, the twenty-sixth of June,
two-thousand and ten at six o'clock in the evening*

*The Space Needle
Seattle, WA*

Casual - destination wedding with belated public reception

Laurie and Roberto are happy to announce their
marriage that took place in a private ceremony on

Wednesday, the third of November, two-
thousand and ten in Edinburgh, Scotland

Please join them for a night of merriment and
jubilation to celebrate their union on

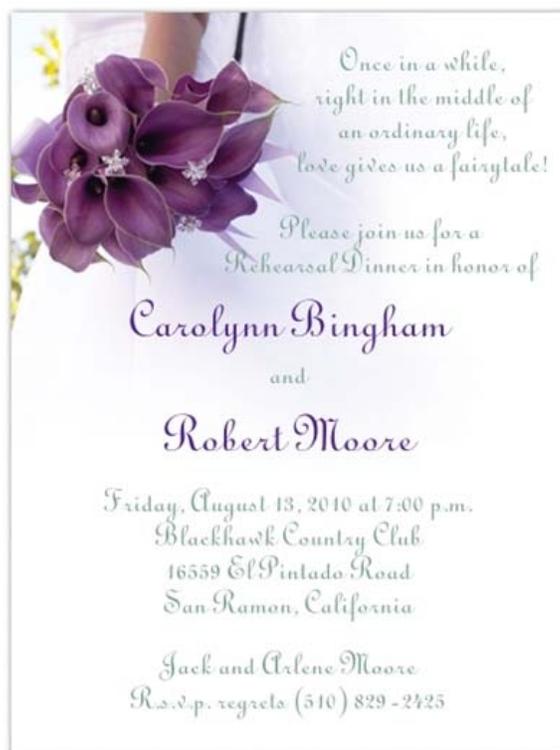
Saturday, the twenty-seventh of November, two-
thousand and ten at 6 o'clock in the evening

Cedar Country Estate
123456 SE Lilac Road
Sandy, OR 97055
(303) 819-0761

CHAPTER 5: WEDDING REHEARSAL DINNER INVITATIONS

Your wedding weekend has finally arrived and with it a slew of activities – the wedding rehearsal dinner, the bridesmaid brunch, the post-nuptial breakfast and other gatherings to celebrate your big day. Even though your wedding weekend activities are smaller and less formal than your actual wedding, there is a proper way to invite your friends and family to your wedding activities - and it doesn't involve a mass Facebook message.

Wedding rehearsal invitations let your families, wedding party, ushers and important extras who have to be at the rehearsal know the time, date, and location of the event. Rehearsal dinner invitations can be handwritten or sent online. If you're having a low-key rehearsal at a bistro or pizza parlor, handwritten invites aren't necessary. If you plan on having a lot of out-of-town guests, send out formal rehearsal dinner invitations.



What to Include in a Wedding Rehearsal Dinner Invitation

Think of your wedding rehearsal dinner invitations like a news story. Cover the five W's: the who, what, when, where and why of your rehearsal dinner.

Details to include

- Reason for the invitation
- Host's name(s)
- Host's contact information
- The name of the venue
- The address of the venue
- Time and date
- Bride and groom's names
- Theme (country ho-down? Hawaiian Luau?)
- RSVP Name & Phone Number *or* Regrets Only Name & Phone Number

Storkie Tip: It's not necessary to include whether it's a kids only reception or whether there's an open bar – stick to the main details

Rehearsal Dinner Invitation Format

Etiquette rules dictate that you have three options for your wedding rehearsal dinner invitations: You can include the rehearsal dinner invitations with your wedding invitations, send them as a separate invite or send an e-mail invitation. The smaller the party, the less formal your invitation needs to be.

Unless your guest list is very small, you'll want guests to R.S.V.P. for the dinner in order to anticipate how much food to order and how many place settings you will need. Be sure to include a name and phone number of the person hosting the event.



Storkie Tip: If your budget won't allow entertaining all your out-of-town guests during wedding weekend downtime, include a list of restaurants or sights to see in the area on your wedding web page, so they'll keep busy while you're busy with last minute wedding prep.

Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests

In the past, the immediate family and the bridal party were the only ones invited to a rehearsal dinner. Times have changed and now the guest list is completely up to the host. Consider inviting your out-of-town guests, those friends and family who traveled miles to see you on your Big Day.

Remember the rehearsal dinner is a great time to give out your bridal party gifts.

When to Order Rehearsal Dinner Invitations

Wedding rehearsal dinner invitations can be very formal or casual based on the event. Visit our Storkie page for [Rehearsal Dinner Invitations](#) and order your cards one to three months before the event.

When to Send Wedding Rehearsal Dinner Invitations

If you're sending out printed dinner invitations to a large group of people, send them out a few days after the wedding invitation goes out. If your guest list is small, invite your guests about a month before the event.



Popular Wedding Rehearsal Dinner Invitation Wording

Formal rehearsal dinner invitation wording

The pleasure of your company is requested at a
Rehearsal Dinner honoring Miss Emily Karen Rose
and Mr. Ryan Scott Stevens on Saturday, the
fourth of June at six o'clock

The Grand Ballroom
Regent Hotel

Rsvp Mrs Nancy Rose
445-882-5445

Casual rehearsal dinner invitation wording

The night before they tie the knot
Please come for dinner and drinks
We'll practice the ceremony
step by step, to iron out the kinks.

Laurie and Michael Richards
invite you to a rehearsal dinner
in honor of

Becky Richards and Bryan Houfflin
Saturday, the first of June
5:30 in the evening
Mama Paserelli's Restaurant

Regrets only: Laurie Richards
665-858-2165

Other Wedding Week Activities

Before or after the Big Day, you or your fiancé may host other wedding activities, such as:

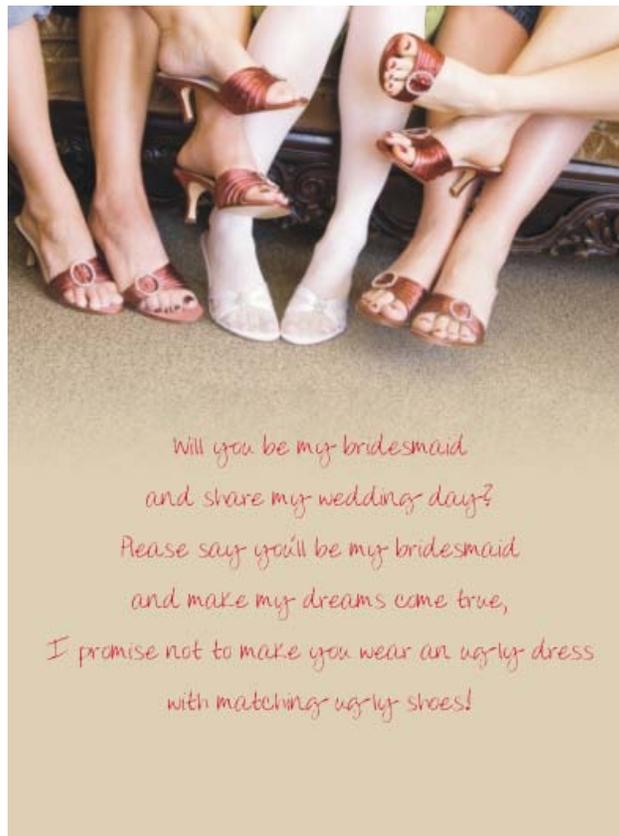
- Pre-wedding bridesmaid luncheon
- After-Wedding Brunch
- Groomsmen Golf Outing
- Wedding guest barbecue mingle

If you want your guests to participate in fun wedding weekend activities, your invitation will depend on how big and formal your occasion – just like with rehearsal dinner invitations. Keep these invitations simple and use the same format as your rehearsal dinner. If you're having a big wedding and want to easily inform guests where they have to be and when, post it on your wedding webpage, as well as sending your invitations.

CHAPTER 6: WEDDING PARTY INVITATIONS

Your wedding party is an important part of the Big Day: your bridesmaids, groomsmen, and "very important extras" will be supporting you during the ceremony and helping you plan every detail leading up to the event. Their participation in your wedding should be requested early in your planning process with fun wedding party invitations.

The etiquette in asking close friends and family to be a part of the wedding is among the most flexible in your wedding – your cards will be circulating among the people who know you well and therefore, your personality can shine through.

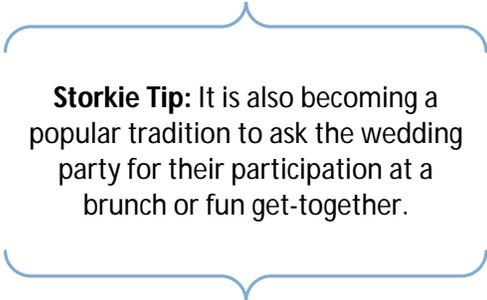


What to Include in a Wedding Party Invitation

The wedding party invitation specifies what role the recipients will play in the wedding.

Who to send wedding party invitations

- Maid/Matron of Honor
- Bridesmaids
- Junior Bridesmaids
- Best Man
- Groomsmen
- Ushers
- Ring Bearer
- Flower Girl(s)
- Guestbook Attendant
- Readers and performers



Storkie Tip: It is also becoming a popular tradition to ask the wedding party for their participation at a brunch or fun get-together.

Wedding Party Invitation Format

Because your wedding party invitations will not be in wide circulation (meaning your entire guest list won't receive one), there is no longstanding tradition regarding format or style. Even very formal weddings or weddings with a specific theme do not require matching wedding party invitations, but sending them out is considered a nice touch.

It is not necessary to have the same card and card format for every role (i.e. Will You Be My Flower Girl cards may be styled to appeal to a young girl, whereas Will You Be My Bridesmaid cards may take a more adult tone and design).

Popular wedding party invitation formats

Cards

Edible cards

Personalized gifts with cards

- Photo albums
- Picture frames
- Clothing

When to Order Wedding Party Invitations

Order wedding party invitations as soon as you have determined which wedding party roles will be included in the wedding. Order enough for each position to receive a card. It's prudent to have at least one card per position as extra, but not necessary.

Storkie Tip: You aren't required to fill all these roles and not everyone needs a wedding party invitation



When to Send Wedding Party Invitations

Wedding party invitations should be sent out as soon as the wedding party has been determined. It is inappropriate to reassign a member of your wedding party after the cards have been received (except under extreme circumstances) so be certain of your decision.

For members of the wedding party who will play a large part in the wedding planning process (most commonly bridesmaids, maid/matron of honor, best man and groomsmen), their invites would be sent as soon as possible so your wedding plans can get started with their guidance and assistance.

Popular Wedding Party Invitation Wording

Simple wedding party invitation wording

Will You Be My Groomsman?

Wedding party invitation wording in verse

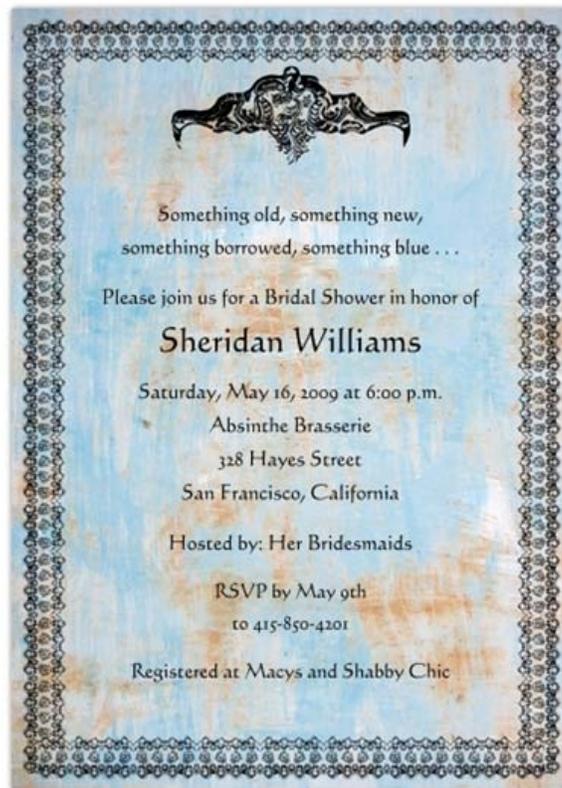
*Will you be my bridesmaid
and share my wedding day?
Please say you'll be my bridesmaid
and make my dreams come true,
I promise not to make you wear an ugly dress
with matching ugly shoes!*

CHAPTER 7: BRIDAL SHOWER INVITATIONS

Like everything within the wedding industry, the conventions and traditions of a wedding bridal shower have shifted – "Hen Parties" and girls-only events certainly prevail, but co-ed guest lists and wedding showers for the marrying couple together are more common than ever. The boys no longer have to go watch football or run errands. They can be part of the shower!

Traditionally, bridal showers were a time when a bride could start collecting gifts as a dowry if her family could not provide one. Today, though, the shower is an occasion for the bride or marrying couple to gather some of their registered gifts and start celebrating their wedding.

In general, the maid or matron of honor, a close friend, or a member of the wedding party will plan and host the bridal shower in her (or his) home or a local venue. While the host usually sends out the bridal shower invitations, the marrying couple should be involved in helping determine the guest list.



What to Include in a Bridal Shower Invitation

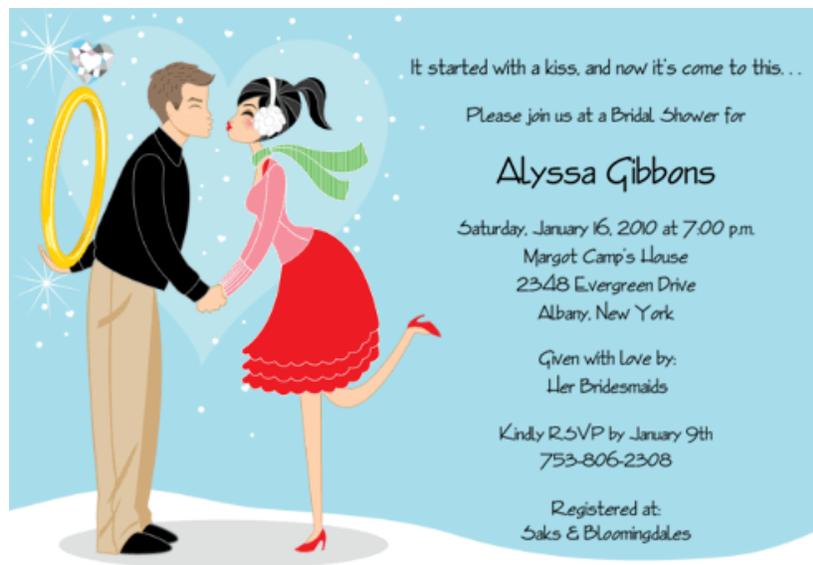
Much like the wedding reception invitations and the rehearsal dinner invitations, bridal shower invitations should include all the important details of the occasion.

Details to include

- The event
- Host's name
- Location
- Time (both beginning and end, if desired)
- R.S.V.P information
- Directions (if not widely known)

Bridal Shower Invitation Format

Traditional cards are the most popular way to invite guests to a bridal shower. The marrying couple can decide on the design to match the theme of their wedding, or for more fun, the couple and their host can choose a new theme just for the shower.



Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests

Who receives bridal shower invitations

The guest list for the wedding ceremony and reception should be the only source of guests for the bridal shower. Except for unique cases (such as an overseas wedding), do not invite anyone who is not also invited to the wedding.

Multiple bridal showers are increasing in popularity, but should be hosted by different people and each shower should have completely different guest lists.

While bridal showers were typically held for the close female friends and family of the bride, today co-ed bridal showers are common, even if the groom will not be present. The shower's guest list should, in the end, be determined by the bride or marrying couple.

When to Order Bridal Shower Invitations

The bridal shower can take place up to five or six months prior to the wedding, or in the same week as the ceremony – and anywhere in between. One month prior to the wedding ceremony is most common. Order bridal shower invitations with enough time to get them printed, addressed and sent out one month prior to the bridal shower date. Visit Storkie.com to see our exceptional line of [Bridal Shower Invitations](#).

When to Send Bridal Shower Invitations

Guests should receive their bridal show invitations one month prior to the date of the shower.



Storkie Tip: While not completely inappropriate, it can be considered crass to include gift registry information. If you're worried, rely on word-of-mouth. The host of the bridal shower should be able to supply this information to inquiring parties.

Also consider including gift registry information, sizes (for lingerie parties), and gift information on a wedding website

Popular Bridal Shower Invitation Wording

Simple bridal shower invitation wording

*You are invited to a
Garden Bridal Shower for
Becky Thurston
Saturday April 17,
One o'clock*

*1524 East Center Road
Sewickley, PA*

*Hosted by her Maid of Honor
R.S.V.P. Rachel Sweson
772 – 509 – 0988*

Fun bridal shower invitation wording

*Before the Miss
Becomes the Missus
Let's shower Courtney
with love and good wishes...*

*A Bridal Luncheon
Saturday, May 5th
12 o'clock*

*The Quacking Duck
455 5th Street
Downtown Boston*

*Hosted by Diane Wambly
Please R.S.V.P. 208-997-8525*

CHAPTER 8: BACHELOR PARTY INVITATIONS AND BACHELORETTE PARTY INVITATIONS

After many weeks of wedding planning, the bachelor and bachelorette parties are where everyone can finally let loose and have a good time. A last 'hurrah' before the wedding vows take place, these parties can range from peaceful get-togethers to outdoor adventures, a night out on the town to an afternoon lunch.

In general, the maid-of-honor and best man plan and host these pre-wedding festivities, but close friends or other members of the wedding party can also assume the responsibility.



What to Include in a Bachelor or Bachelorette Party Invitation

Because bachelor parties and bachelorette parties are generally fun and festive occasions, invitation etiquette is pretty lax. However, it is still important that guests know all the important event details so they can plan accordingly.

Details to include

- The event
- Host's name and R.S.V.P information
- Location(s)
- Time (both beginning and ending, if desired)
- Directions (if not widely known)

Bachelor and Bachelorette Party Invitation Format

Handwritten bachelor/ette party invitations are always an option, and there are many playful and themed designs to choose from. It is also an option to have a more casual invitation format for this type of party, though, such as an evite or even word-of-mouth among close friends.

Etiquette for Acknowledging Guests

Who receives bachelor and bachelorette party invitations

Except for in extreme cases, there should be no one at the bachelor and bachelorette parties who is not also invited to the wedding ceremony. Even in the case of a private family-only wedding ceremony, the guests of the party should at least be invited to the wedding reception.

The honoree of the party should have the final say in the guest list, even in the case of a surprise bachelor or bachelorette party.



*Last night to be single,
Let's go mingle!*

*Bachelor Party
for*

RYAN

*Saturday, June 12, 2010
5:30 p.m.*

*Drinks and Dinner
499 Solla Way
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Rsvp by August 8th
606-885-2525*

When to Order Bachelor and Bachelorette Party Invitations

Bachelor and bachelorette parties most commonly take place a week or two before the wedding ceremony. Cards should be ordered with enough time to confirm plans and guest list and be sent out one month before the event.

When to Send Bachelor and Bachelorette Party Invitations

Invitations should be received by their guests no later than one month prior to the date of the party.

Popular Bachelor and Bachelorette Shower Invitation Wording

For bachelorettes

*While Elizabeth's Prince Charming is away
We are taking her out to play
Everything will be alrighty
For one last wild and crazy night!
Join us for Elizabeth's Bachelorette Weekend!
Friday June 12th – Sunday, June 14th
The Country Day Spa and Inn
Bar Harbor, Maine
Hosted by: Katie McGee and Sarah Doyle
r.s.v.p. by May 21st
207-558-8362*

For bachelors

*The day is drawing near
Soon wedding bells he'll hear
So come and mingle
While Andrew's still single!
Andrew's Bachelor Party
Drinks, Dinner, and Cards
Saturday, August 12th
8:00 pm
449 Solla Way, Santa Fe
r.s.v.p. Kellan by August 8th
606-885-2525*

CHAPTER 9: WEDDING CEREMONY PROGRAMS

Wedding ceremony programs welcome guests to your ceremony and give them something to peruse before the processional. Programs also give couples a way to creatively express their wedding day theme – wedding programs could be elaborate with ornate touches like ribbon and scrolling script or more sleek and modern. The style of the wedding ceremony programs is completely up to the couple and an opportunity to show the playful side of a wedding ceremony.

Wedding programs also give guests a keepsake of the big day, so it's important that they are put together nicely.

What to Include in a Wedding Program

Wedding programs explain the order of the events, list the songs and readings, and name the members of the wedding party. Couples can use the wedding program as a way to make their ceremony more personal. It is acceptable for programs to include songs or poems that have special meaning to the couple, as well as listing the bride's "something old, something new" trinkets and heartfelt sentiments "in memory of."

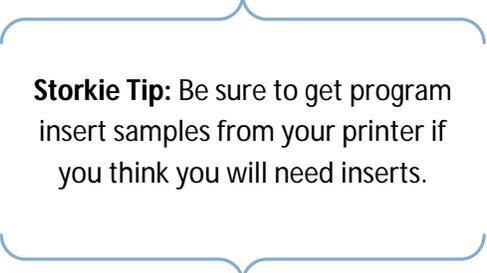
Inserts may include directions from the wedding ceremony to the reception, lyrics to a song, or even explanation of ceremony rituals, if the majority of guests are of a different faith than the couple.

Details to include

- The introduction
- Ceremony order
- Names of officiates, musicians, wedding planners, etc.
- Names of the wedding party
- List of songs and readings

Optional details

- Memorials
- Brief biographies
- Readings/quotations
- Song lyrics
- Explanation of rituals
- A thank you to parents, guests, and relatives
- Fun Sentiments:
 - Short description on how you two met or a humorous anecdote about your first date



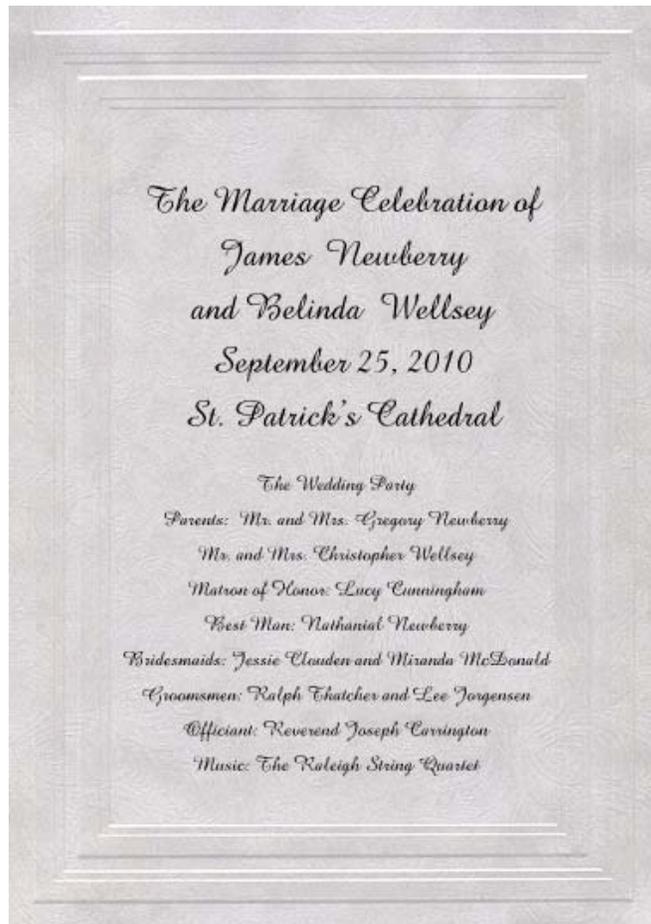
Storkie Tip: Be sure to get program insert samples from your printer if you think you will need inserts.

Wedding Ceremony Program Format

There are many different options for wedding ceremony program formats: a single card, a multiple-page booklet, or a tri-fold, among others. Make sure your wedding program coordinates with the rest of your wedding stationery and that you proofread your programs very carefully before you print them or submit the final order to the printing company.

Storkie Tip: A very formal wedding would require the program to have the date written out, not numerical.

The cover includes the date or names of the couple, location and time of the ceremony, along with an image and a design element, such as a monogram, picture or scroll.



Wedding Program Etiquette

Most wedding etiquette books will not insist on a wedding program, but for certain types of ceremonies, programs are more necessary than others. If the couple is having a traditional ceremony, a large wedding, or a particularly long ceremony, wedding programs give guests clear direction on the various events and something to read as they wait.

Who receives a wedding ceremony program

The rule is to order one program per couple and one per single guest. Most people don't mind sharing, and this reduces waste and costs. Also consider that not every guest that attends the reception will attend the ceremony.

Who hands out wedding programs

Ushers or designated friends typically hand out the wedding programs. Give them clear directions on how you want them handed out; for example, at the door of the wedding venue versus at the head of each row of seats.

When to Order Wedding Programs

It is recommended that couples order wedding programs at the same time as the invitations. Many couples also make their own wedding programs using a computer template and printer –this saves money but can cause headaches if the couple is not particularly artistic or technical. Click here to find our wide selection of [Wedding Programs](#) at [Storkie](#).

Popular Wedding Program Wording

Writing out the date is an option for very formal weddings but it's not necessary.

Formal wedding program wording

(LEFT SIDE)

The Marriage Ceremony Uniting
Shannon Nicole Harris
and
Joshua James Peterson

on Saturday, July 21, 2010
at three o'clock in the afternoon
St. Paul's Church
Hillsboro, Kentucky

Prelude

Seating of Grandparents and Mothers	"In This Very Room" by Harris
Attendants' Processional	"Canon in D" by Pachelbel
Bride's Processional	"Bridal Chorus" by Wagner
Greeting	Dr. Hamilton
Prayer	Dr. Hamilton
Unity Candle - Parents	"Parent's Prayer" by Davis
Scripture Reading - I Corinthians 13	Dr. Hamilton
Exchanging of Vows and Giving of Rings	Rev. Dove
Unity Candle - Bride and Groom	Rev. Dove
Prayer	Rev. Dove
Pronouncement and Benediction	Rev. Dove
Presentation of Husband and Wife	Rev. Dove
Recessional	"Wedding March" by Mendelssohn

(RIGHT SIDE)

The Wedding Party

Parents

Mr. and Mrs. John Harris
Rev. and Mrs. Jon J. Peterson

Grandmother of the Bride

Mrs. June Bern

Grandparents of the Groom

Cdr. and Mrs. Christopher C. Hilton
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Peterson

Bridesmaids

Miss Kim Mendel
Miss Emma Bradford
Miss Dakota Peterson, Groom's sister

Groomsmen

Mr. Jon Taylor, Bride's cousin
Mr. Vlad Peterson, Groom's brother
Mr. Mason Peterson, Groom's brother

Flower Girl

Miss Aliya Hilton, Groom's cousin

Ring Bearer

Mr. Steve Pappas

Ushers

Mr. Alex Bern, Bride's cousin
Mr. Robert Peterson, Groom's cousin

Officiating Ministers

Dr. Jeff Hamilton
Rev. Douglas Dove

Pianist

Mrs. Joyce Carol Lee

Wedding Director

Mrs. January Taylor, Bride's aunt

Guestbook Attendants

Mrs. Susan Taylor
Ms. Tanya Taylor

Casual wedding program wording

The Marriage Celebration of
James G. Newberry and Belinda Beecher Wellsey
September 25, 2010
St. Patrick's Cathedral, Raleigh, North Carolina

The Wedding Party

Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Newberry
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Wellsey
Matron of Honor: Lucy Cunningham
Best Man: Nathaniel Newberry
Bridesmaids: Jessie Clouden and Miranda McDonald
Groomsmen: Ralph Thatcher and Lee Jorgensen
Officiant: Reverend Joseph Carrington
Music: The Raleigh String Quartet

The Wedding Ceremony

Processional, Canon in D, Pachelbel
Welcome
Opening Prayer
Poem "The Feast of Love," Barbara Wells
Exchange of Vows
Exchange of Rings Rings
Lighting of Unity Candle
Blessing
Presentation of Couple
Recessional, Symphony No. 4, Beethoven

CHAPTER 10: WEDDING THANK YOU CARD ETIQUETTE

Unfortunately, wedding planning doesn't end with the return flight from your Cancun honeymoon. As exciting as it sounds to dash home and rip open more gifts than the next four Christmases and birthdays combined, you might be overlooking the most important aspect of wedding etiquette - the wedding thank you card.

Get your pen and paper out because for every Kitchen Aid, candleholder and non-stick cookware you pull out of a box, it is customary to send a heartfelt handwritten thank you note. We know how daunting it sounds to write countless thank you notes for your new lifetime supply of slotted spoons, but it's not as big of chore as it sounds. Just stick with these tips and you'll be enjoying those wedding gifts before you know it.



How to Prepare for Wedding Thank You Cards

Before you rip open your first wedding gift, find your wedding guest address list (you know, the same one you used to send wedding invitations in chapter 3.) Your wedding guest list is your holy grail when it comes to thank you cards. As you open the gifts, make a note with the guest's name and address and place it by their wedding gift.

What to Include in a Wedding Thank You Card

The thank you card serves two purposes: it tells your guests that you did receive the gift and lets them know that you are grateful for their gesture. This isn't an essay, so don't feel the need to be witty or original. Just a few handwritten words of gratitude are all you need.

Storkie Tip: If the bride plans on taking on her husband's name, only include the married name on thank you cards sent *after* the wedding.

Details to include

- The name(s) of who supplied the gift
- The name of the gift, and how it will be used
- How thankful you and your spouse are for the gift

Additional details to include

- Refer to any additional effort the guest went through
 - Long travel
 - A special toast
- Add a line for guests unable to attend
- A separate note for shower and engagement gifts
 - Even if you receive two gifts from the same person, each gift deserves a note

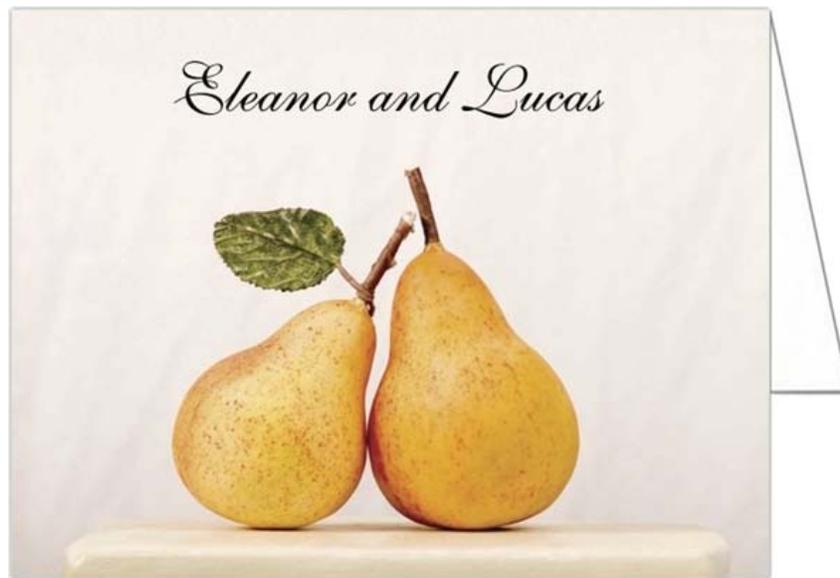
Etiquette for Acknowledging Gifts

Traditional wedding thank you cards are hand written with blue or black ink on ivory or white notepaper. You may choose to sign with your name or initials, or you can use our [Personalized Wedding Thank You Cards](#) from [Storkie](#) for an extra special touch.

For every gift you receive, specify the gift in your thank you note. If you received multiples of the same gift, try to be as specific as you can: "We've always wanted the Chrome 4 Slice Bread Toaster 4000."

Etiquette for Acknowledging Money

If you receive money, there is no need to acknowledge the amount. Etiquette dictates that you mention how you plan to use it: "Thank you for the generous gift. We plan on using it as part of a down payment on a car."



Who Receives a Wedding Thank You Card

Anyone who sends you a gift or helps you with the wedding planning process should receive a thank you card. You may also choose to send wedding thank you cards to any professional that goes above and beyond your expectations.

When to Order Wedding Thank You Cards

If you plan to order personalized thank you cards, it is best to do so with your order of save the date cards and wedding invitations. Always order more thank you cards than invites because you will use them throughout your wedding planning process. Storkie has a wide variety of custom and personalized [Wedding Thank You Cards](#) designed for your convince.

When to Send Wedding Thank You Cards

Wedding thank you cards should go out for all gifts received before the wedding at least two-weeks after their arrival. For all gifts received during and after the reception, newlywed couples have a month to two-months from the end of their honeymoon to reply.

Thank You
from
Stacey & Matthew Thompson



Popular Wedding Thank You Card Wording

Thank you to a close friend or relative

Dear Grandma Ray,

Thank you for the beautiful Tiffany Silverware. It's lovely, and Elwood and I are honored that you gave us this special family heirloom. It was wonderful to have you travel out for our wedding - and your toast about Grandpa at the reception touched our hearts. I can't wait to tell you about the honeymoon and married life.

With love,

Lindsey

Thank you to an acquaintance or distant relative

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Roberts,

Thank you for the luxurious 500 count bed sheets. We've never slept in something so regal, and we're sure to enjoy them for many years to come. It was wonderful to meet you at the wedding, and we appreciate that you were able to share this memorable day with us and our families.

With Love,

Elwood

Thank you if you do not like the gift

Dear Aunt Rosie,

Thank you for your gift of the antique doll. You're very generous, and I know this gift means the world to you. It was lovely to see you at our wedding, and Elwood and I hope to see you very soon.

With love,

Lindsey

Thank you for cash

Dear Uncle Rick,

I want to thank you for your generous gift for our wedding. We plan on using it toward a down payment on a new house. It was wonderful to see you at the wedding, and Lindsey and I hope to see you very soon.

With love,

Elwood

Thank you to a guest who did not attend the wedding

Dear Uncle Jimmy,

Thank you so much for the season tickets to the Mariners. I'm so sorry you were unable to attend the wedding - it was as romantic and special as we hoped. The next time you're in town, I'd love to take you to a game.

With love,

Elwood

Thank you for a gift from the registry

Dear Aunt Rosie,

Thank you so much for the china set as a wedding gift. Now Elwood and I have the complete dining set to serve eight. I'm sure we'll use it for many years to come.

With love,

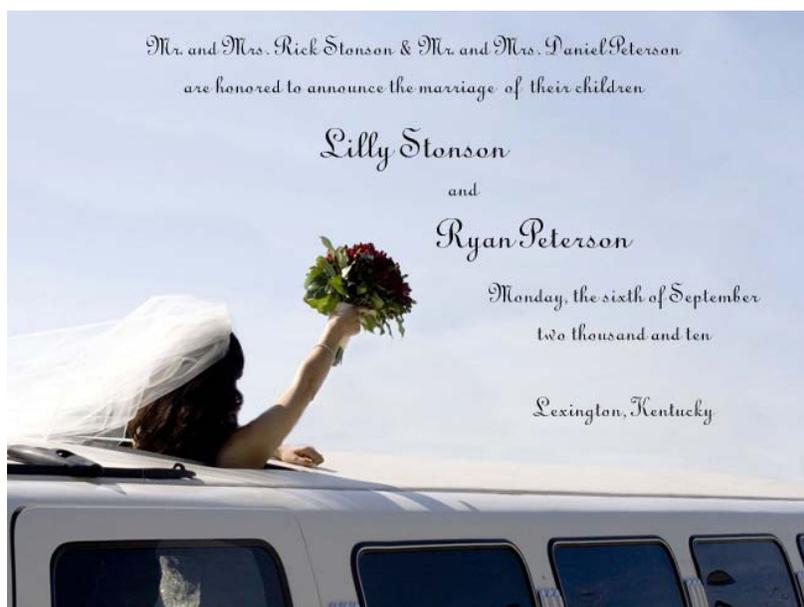
Lindsey

CHAPTER 11: WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Its almost over: the planning, the invitations, the parties, the presents, the endless thank you cards. After this final (and optional!) wedding announcement, you can say "goodbye" to hand-addressing envelopes and start your new married life. Congratulations!

The wedding announcement is optional. They are most commonly sent when a wedding ceremony is very small or in the case of an elopement so extended family and friends are aware that a wedding took place and that the bride or groom took on a new, married last name.

The bride's parents traditionally were responsible for sending out the wedding announcements, but this practice has evolved with everything else so that conventions are more flexible. Now, it is socially acceptable for either the parents of the married couple to send out announcements, or the couple themselves.



What to Include in a Wedding Announcement

Wedding announcements are short and concise. Their function is to inform their recipients of the basic details of the marriage.

Details to include

- Name of bride and groom
- Name of the parents (especially if they are sending the announcements)
- The date of the wedding ceremony

Storkie Tip: For a more casual wedding announcement, consider putting an announcement in a local or community newspaper. See chapter one and engagement announcements for a few ideas.

Wedding Announcement Formats

Formal wedding announcement cards are sent in much the same way as wedding invitations, with both an inner and outer envelope. They can match the wedding invitations (if the ceremony wasn't an elopement) or be unique to this occasion.

Like the wedding invitation, wedding announcements should all be hand addressed.

Etiquette for Acknowledging Recipients

Who receives wedding announcements

Wedding announcements inform those who were not invited to the wedding of your recent marriage. This includes extended family, co-workers, acquaintances and community members.

Wedding announcements should be addressed with the same conventions of the wedding invitation. See chapter 3 if you need a refresher!

When to Order Wedding Announcements

Because wedding announcements are the last thing a couple has to worry about, there is some flexibility regarding when you can order your wedding announcements. However, it is recommended to purchase wedding announcements as soon as all the details of the wedding are finalized so busy couples don't forget. Visit our wide variety of [Wedding Announcement](#) formats at Storkie.com.

When to Send Wedding Announcements

Wedding announcements are designed to be sent out the day following the wedding ceremony, but "as soon as possible" is the rule of thumb. For small weddings with private ceremonies, announcements should be sent out within a couple of weeks. For elopements, announcements can be sent out up to year after the event. Announcements should never be sent before the ceremony takes place.

Popular Wedding Announcement Wording

Parents sending wedding announcements

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Stonson
and
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Peterson
are honored to announce the marriage of
Lilly Stonson
to
Mr. Ryan Peterson
on Saturday, the sixth of September
two thousand and ten in Lexington, Kentucky

The couple sending wedding announcements

Lilly Stonson
and
Mr. Ryan Peterson
announce their marriage
on Saturday, the sixth of September
two thousand and ten in Lexington, Kentucky