

Wedding Stationery Etiquette



Save the date cards, invitations and envelopes set the mood for the wedding and help to establish your style right from the start. The process can be a little overwhelming if you don't know where to start, here is a helpful guide.

when to send

5 - 8 months before your wedding

Save the date cards are becoming more critical especially when planning a summer or destination wedding. When weekends book up fast and guests have several weddings to attend, make sure to send save the dates well in advance.

2 - 3 months before your wedding

Invitations provide guests with more detailed information, along with an RSVP card to send back. Invitations should be sent out two to three months ahead of time, but for weddings involving travel, up to six months is not uncommon.

1 - 2 months after your wedding

Thank you cards should be hand written to give it a personal touch. Thank your guest(s) for coming to your wedding and for any gifts they may have given. Adding any personalizations or a memory from the occasion is always a nice addition!

Save the Dates

Save the date cards are designed to ensure that as many of your guests as possible can attend your big day and will officially announce your engagement.

Generally, you want to keep them simple.

Included should be your names, the date, location (state / province and country) as well as a disclaimer that a formal invitation will follow. This informs guests that they are not missing any information and that more details are to come.

Keep in mind that this is your guests' first glimpse at the style and mood of your wedding so the design is important. Choose one that will match your wedding invitations so there is a consistent theme for the event.



Invitations

Weddings are never the same, so when it comes to invitations there are no set rules. However, there are a few standards: they should include all the details that your guests need to know to attend your big day and how they should RSVP.

- names (including parents' names or "Together with family...")
- the date (day, month and year)
- ceremony time, location and address
- reception time, location and address
- cocktail hour and an indication of food service (may be included on RSVP cards)
- dress code
- RSVP instructions / RSVP card to mail back

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RSVP cards

RSVP cards should always include a “reply by” date that allows for enough time to get a final head count to your caterer and finalize the seating chart. Two to three weeks is suggested but you may want to allow an extra week or two for those who procrastinate.

If the invitation is addressed to multiple people, like a family of four, you may want to add a line for the number of people attending.

If there are menu options, include an RSVP for each person or a line to initial who is having what meal so there are no mix ups.

Enclosure cards

Enclosure cards provide guests with additional wedding details such as location, directions and / or map, website information, wedding party details, accomodation information and more.

Enclosure card designs are generally similar to your invitation and RSVP card to ensure a consistent look.

If you have three enclosure cards or more, a bellyband, ribbon / string, or flap helps to hold everything together.



Thank You cards

Showing gratitude to your family and friends who attend your wedding can arguably be one of the most important details. Don't wait to order your thank you cards until after the ceremony. Get them at the same time you get your invitations so you don't have to worry about them later. Don't procrastinate and send them out a month or two after your big day.

Envelope

Within the envelope should be the main wedding invitation, RSVP and any other enclosure cards you may have.

Written on the outside of the envelope is the/ formal name and address of your invited guest(s).

Be specific as to who is invited on the envelope. If kids are welcome, be sure to add their names or “and family”.

If the recipient is allowed a plus one, write their name and “and guest”.

Your return address should be on the back flap or front upper left hand corner of the envelope, on a label or hand written.

