



Tiny Dog Press

Tinydogpress.com

Does and Don'ts: Invitation Etiquette

Will friends understand if we are having an intimate affair?

After planning a wedding, people start to understand all of the dynamics that are associated when working on a guest list. Dear friends will understand and still desire to celebrate with you through other celebratory occasions

What if we have a limited space venue and a long guest list?

You can create an "A-list" and a "B-list." If you choose this path, we recommend having two different response sets. Have the "A-list" response date 6-8 weeks before the wedding. This gives you sufficient and proper time to mail invitations to your "B-list" guests without them knowing they are second on the list.

DO NOT send Save the Dates or shower invitations to ANY "B-list" guests! Try to keep "B-list" people local people so they don't need to worry about higher priced travel costs. If "B-list" are close friends and you feel comfortable explaining guest list dynamics, then it is up to you on if they would feel insulted to be invited to showers.

You know your relationships best! People who have planned their own weddings will understand all the dynamics behind planning, many will still feel honored to celebrate with you even if the ceremony is not possible.

Registry

- NEVER include in a mailed wedding suite
- INCLUDE on your website, shower invitations or through personal conversations

Kids or No Kids?

- Communicate through proper envelope addressing!
- Can add to the website or through personal conversations
- Add to reception card such as "Adult Reception to follow" or add a special extra card that can be included in specific invites. Traditional etiquette would frown against having this type of text on the reception card. Modern etiquette is okay with this type of text.
- Provide babysitting! Recommended for traveling guests with young kids

Inviting International Guests

- If you have a large number going to one country, see if you can you ship all of the invitations to one person (such as a relative) in the country and they mail from within that country.
- Remember International Stamps on the wedding invitation suite if you are mailing from the US to another country!
- Don't place a stamp on their reply set since they will need to use a stamp from their home country. Give options for other means to reply such as an email address or website.

Addressing Envelopes

- Hand Addressing–Calligraphy–preferred!
- Digital Printing
- AVOID the use of sticky labels *unless* incorporated in your envelope design

Double Envelopes

- Address inner envelope to guests. You can use the guests formal or informal names depending on your relationship with the guest.
- We recommend you use double envelopes if you have a special envelope liner that you would like to not have ripped open or have a wax seal. Use the wax seal on the inner envelope.
- The inner envelope needs to be have specific guests names such as adult names only if kids are not invited

Hand Canceling Invitation Postage

- Hand canceling the postage on your invitation envelopes will protect your invitation suite during the USPS sorting process. Hand stamping the postage will add travel time for your invitations so plan accordingly. It is worth the extra time!
- Before you are ready to send your invitations, go to your local post office and ask when they prefer customers who like to hand cancel their postage to come in.