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Your wedding invitations are the first impression that your guest will have of your forthcoming wedding and the overall style of the celebration. So when the day comes to announce your wedding to all your friends and family, you will want to make sure it is with impact and style.

From the save the date card or wedding invitation to the wedding breakfast stationery and thank you cards, your wedding stationery sets the scene and tone for your wedding day and stamps your style on the wedding that will leave a lasting impression on all your guests.

SET YOUR BUDGET

Unless you are in a lucky position not to have to consider costs, probably the first decision to make before you start to consider your wedding stationery requirements is to establish your budget. If you are having a large wedding, the cost of wedding stationery can soon mount up. The idea of bespoke wedding invitations may appeal to you but if you are have 200 guests you need to know that you can afford the costs of a bespoke designer! Similarly, you may like the idea of hand crafting your own wedding stationery for that personal touch but be sure that you are up to the challenge of sticking, gluing or printing dozens of invitations when you have dresses to buy, photographers to interview, cakes to choose.

WHAT STATIONERY DO I NEED? MAKE A LIST!

To set a budget it helps to make a list of all the invitations and other stationery that you NEED and then if the budget allows you can consider the additional extras that you can afford to add those stylish extra touches to your wedding. Place names, menus, favour boxes - the list is as long as you wish to make it! Here's our guide to the wedding stationery you may wish to consider:

â€¢ Save The Date Cards/Engagement Announcement

â€¢ Wedding Day Invitations

â€¢ Evening Invitations

â€¢ Rsvp Cards

â€¢ Information Cards

â€¢ Order Of Service

â€¢ Order Of The Day

â€¢ Guest Books

â€¢ Table Seating Plans

â€¢ Menus

â€¢ Name Place Cards And Table Numbers/Names

â€¢ Favour Boxes

â€¢ Cake Boxes

â€¢ Thank You Cards

â€¢ Photo Albums

â€¢ Personal Wedding Wedsites

HOW MANY INVITATIONS AND WHO TO INVITE?

Before ordering your wedding stationery you should be clear about the quantities you will require as some companies, particularly bespoke stationers, may need several weeks or even months notice to produce extra invitations. It could also work out more costly to make additional orders. You should allow one invitation per family or couple.

If you are inviting children, their names should also be included on the wedding invitation. Younger adults above 16 would probably appreciate their own invitation. It is also courteous to send an invitation to the groom's parents, the priest/minister and any guests that you already know cannot make it but would find an invitation thoughtful (perhaps a relative abroad). Always make sure you order some extra invitations in case you make mistakes or have to invite guests on your reserve list. So who should you invite? Here are some points to bear in mind when compiling a guest list -

â€¢ What is our budget. How many guests can you cater for within our budget?

â€¢ Start your guest list early as it can be a long and complicated job!

â€¢ The first guests on your list should be those people who you really care about, close family and friends you see on a weekly basis.

â€¢ Then you can consider people who have played an important part in your life in the past.

â€¢ Consider if you want to start inviting work colleagues. Do you want to invite them or do you feel under pressure to invite colleagues? Remember, if you invite a couple of colleagues, others may be offended.

â€¢ Consider the opinions of those who are contributing financially to the wedding - should they have a say in the guest list?

â€¢ Do the bride and groom have similar size families or would it be sensible to invite more guests from one side of the family?

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