



## Wedding Invitation Timeline

Courtesy of [www.PrintedCreationsWeddingStore.com](http://www.PrintedCreationsWeddingStore.com)

You may not realize just how many steps there really are to organizing and preparing your wedding invitations. From creating your guest list to finalizing all of your ceremony and reception details, many things affect your preparations.

There really are no absolute deadlines for many of the steps in your wedding invitation timeline. Although there are some general timeframes that you may find helpful to avoid last-minute rushing since you have so many other things on your mind as well.

Here is a general timeline to simply use as a guideline for your invitation planning:

### 9 months – 1 year

- Begin working on your guest list so you will know how many invites (and possibly Save the Dates) to eventually order (one per single adult, couple or family invited).
- Start your invitation shopping so you can narrow your choices down to only your favorites. Be sure to order samples, which are usually blank, so you can personally see the paper and design.
- If you are planning to also send Save the Date cards to guests, begin searching for your favorite design of them as well.

### 7 to 8 months

- If you will be mailing Save the Date cards, place your order based on the number of guests to whom they will be sent as they are optional. Keep in mind that whoever receives them MUST also receive your wedding invitation.
- Review sample wedding invitation verses and give some thought as to how your wording will read.

### 6 months

- If sending Save the Dates, prepare and mail them.
- Select your invitation design and gather all the details that will be printed on them such as date, properly spelled names, times, name and address of location(s), etc.
- Determine which invitation enclosures or extras you will also be ordering – reception cards, response cards, pre-printed return address on envelopes, direction/map cards, accommodation cards, decorative envelope seals, colored lining for inner envelopes, matching thank you cards or informal notes, etc. Some of these options may not be available depending on the style you selected. You may also be able to order matching menu cards, table cards and place cards for your design. The more items you can order together, the more you will save by avoiding separate shipping costs later.
- If you are including response cards, check with your dinner/reception location to see how far in advance they need your final guest count so you can select the RSVP date that will be printed on them (typically 2-3 weeks before wedding). You also need to decide whose address will be printed on the response envelope or postcard so they will receive the replies from guests.

#### 4-5 months

- Finalize your wording and place your invitation order. Remember to order some extras now so you won't run out if there are last-minute guests to invite and so you also have a few as souvenirs. If the option is available, order some extra envelopes as well just to be safe.
- Review your guest list to make sure you have current addresses for everyone.

#### 3-4 months

- Fold and/or assemble your invitations, if necessary.
- Hand address mailing envelopes and write guest names on inside envelopes, if they are included.
- Purchase and apply postage stamps to the response card envelopes or response postcards, if they will be included.
- Assemble all invitation pieces and insert them into already addressed envelopes.
- Take one fully assembled and sealed invitation to the Post Office to have it weighed to determine the correct amount of postage needed.
- Purchase your stamps from the Post Office or consider purchasing custom wedding stamps for mailing your invites. Many online retailers give you the option of choosing from pre-designed wedding postage or simply uploading a photo to create your own stamp design.

**NOTE** - Be sure to have one of your ready-to-mail invitations weighed at a Post Office BEFORE you purchase any postage stamps to make sure you are using the correct amount for each invitation.

#### 6-8 weeks

- Seal the envelopes, apply postage stamps and mail wedding invitations all at the same time directly at a Post Office location.

#### 3-4 weeks

- Prepare and mail any other wedding related invites...rehearsal dinner, post-wedding brunch, etc.
- Keep track of the response cards as they are returned by checking off their names from your guest list.

#### 2-3 weeks

- Contact any guests who didn't mail back their response cards.
- Provide final guest count to reception/dinner location.

That pretty much takes care of everything related to your invitations prior to your special day. The only thing left to do is to write out and mail your thank you cards, especially if you ordered them with your invitations. They should be sent out about a month after the wedding and no later than three months.

Again, this is just a guideline for your invitation timeline, but hopefully it will help you stay organized which is the key for all of your wedding planning.