

Wedding Advice

- HOW TO -

Create Your Wedding GUEST LIST

Plus a **FREE** downloadable
guest list template

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1. Determine the Ideal Number Of Guests

First and foremost you need to determine how many guests you wish to invite. Are you planning on having a small intimate wedding of 50, or are you going all out and inviting your 300 closest friends? Also, keep in mind that on average about 20% of those you invite will not attend, slightly more if the majority are from out of town.

2. Split Up The Wedding Guest List

Once you have decided on this magic number, I recommend you split the guest list between you and your fiancé (who should be responsible for 50%) and each of your parents (who should each be responsible for 25%). For example, if you decide on 100 guests, you and your fiancé would choose 50 guests and each of your parents would choose 25 guests. I've learned that this helps prevent any arguments/issues regarding the number of people your family chooses to invite, and helps you better manage the guest list.

3. Brainstorm Your Part Of The Guest List

While you and your fiancé are together responsible for half of the wedding guest list, I recommend you create separate lists of EVERYBODY you would like to attend your wedding and then combine them. Yes, this is going to be a long list, but is a great way to ensure nobody is forgotten or left off of your wedding guest list.

4. Create an "A", "B" and "C" List

Now that you have created a list that most likely exceeds the number of allotted guests, start grouping people into 3 categories. First create a "A" list of people who will definitely be invited; this is typically immediate family and close friends. Next create a "B" list. This list will include all the people you would like to attend your wedding, and typically includes friends and co-workers. Finally, create a "C" list. This is the group you don't necessarily *want* to invite but feel obligated to invite. It often includes distant relatives, co-workers, and those you're worried about inviting.

From this list, you now know who to invite! Your "A" list will definitely be invited, and you can keep adding people from your "B" list and then "C" list until your guest count is complete.

5. Account For Plus One

While many people think it is a requirement to extend a plus one to all of their single friends and family that is not necessarily the case. A plus one is only needed for those in a serious relationship of at least one year, or who are living together. Do your research ahead of time so you know this information!

Also, when sending out invitations, be sure to write everybody's name that is invited on the invitation. On the RSVP card, instead of leaving a space for your guest to write his/her name (and whoever he/she wishes to invite), have a calligrapher write each guest's name on the card. This will help eliminate the ambiguous plus one, and the uninvited guests.

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