

Stationery Secrets



Fairy Tale
Wedding Company

This is when it all starts to become real and you send out your invitations, even though everyone probably has already been told or knows the date. A formal invitation is traditionally sent to all guests, but in addition to the printing of the invitations there are so many other items that need to be considered and planned for as well. In this Factsheet we hope to provide you with a guide to the options available and the variety of different suppliers you can obtain stationery from these days. As with so many other sectors of the wedding industry the choice has grown over recent years and now it is possible to have almost anything with a little planning!

Options Available

- Online supplier – like www.brideandgroomdirect.co.uk offer a great choice of basic stationery and provide a reliable service
- Bridal shop – your local bridal shop or high street store may stock a range of invitations, RSVP and thank you cards
- Local printer – a local printer, once the only option available, will be happy to assist you with personalised items, but be cautious as this could prove to be an expensive option
- Handcrafted Personal Stationery designer – There are always a selection of quality stationery companies at local wedding shows, offering personalised designs to fit your style or colour scheme
- Arts & Crafts – DIY – often quite popular, this is a very personal and thoughtful option if you have the skill and the time!
- Local artist – a lovely idea which is not often explored, is to have an artist draw a portrait of the couple or their venue. This can then be used as the cover or template for designs. Again this can be quite expensive, but you could have the original framed and it provides everyone with a truly unique reminder!
- Consider – calligraphy, engraving, letterpress, lithography, thermography, photos and other images

How to apply your individual style

- Talk to your supplier about personalising your stationery
- Ensure you have colour swatches available
- Consider a personal photo or pencil drawing
- Have a good brief of your overall theme and the image you want for the day to work towards
- Ensure your stationery reflects the formality of your celebrations. This will help your guests choose their attire and possibly even the type of gift they will purchase.

Considerations when choosing your stationery

- Do you need to post all your invites out – have a good supply of second class stamps and make sure your invitations are under 100grams and are no more than 5mm thick and C5 in size
- Have an A list of guests and a B list of guests – so you can invite extras from the B list, if people from the A list can't attend
- Look at the portfolio of the selected service provider and always ask for references
- Ribbon, 3D and other extras may be very attractive, but ensure they are well made and not likely to fall apart

Extras

Some of the items on the right such as maps, RSVP cards and Gift Lists are not essential if you have your own wedding website, as your site provides the information for you. Also remember to ask your venues about the items above, as they may provide them as part of your package! You can also print the items which are not themed on your personal computer at home onto copier paper – a map is a map after all!

When writing out your invites treat yourself to a new pen and allow approximately 10-20% extra for mistakes. Another thing that people also over look is you only need one invite per couple or family and not one each, so if you have 200 guests you will probably not need 200 invitations!

What do you actually need to consider ordering and what may you not have thought of!

- Invitations
- Save the date fridge magnets
- RSVP cards
- Maps
- Gift Lists
- Dietary requirements slip – ask about allergies, vegetarians, kosher, etc
- Thank you cards
- Place name cards
- Order of service sheets
- Menus
- Pew Cards
- Table Plan

Be sure you know what you are getting (Questions to ask)

- Always proof read everything
- Ask about delivery dates
- Ask about repeat runs if necessary