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All about Bridal Shower Invitations

Who's Who on the Bridal Shower Guest List

When getting married, it can sometimes be difficult to understand the proper etiquette involved with many of the wedding functions. The bridal shower is no exception. Many brides-to-be are left uncertain of the proper procedures to follow when planning a bridal shower and who to invite. In addition, the proper role of different guests on the list can become confusing. With a few simple rules of thumb, however, you are guaranteed to have a memorable and proper bridal shower.

Who Hosts the Bridal Shower?

The maid or matron of honor, and never the bridesmaids, traditionally hosts the bridal shower. It is, however, acceptable for another close friend of either the bride or the groom to take on the responsibility. For the most part, it is considered unacceptable for a close relative of the bride, such as the mother or siblings, to throw a bridal shower. This is because it gives the appearance that the family is scouting for gifts. In some areas of the country, however, it is customary for a close relative to throw the bridal shower.

In addition, if the bride does not have anyone else to throw the party for her, it may be acceptable for the mother or a sister to throw the party. The family members should, however, try to have as little involvement as possible. It is never considered acceptable for the bride to throw her own bridal shower.

Sometimes, the coworkers of a bride-to-be also decide to throw a bridal shower. A group of coworkers or just one coworker may host this shower. So far as etiquette is concerned, this is perfectly acceptable. Just be sure to limit the guest list to coworkers. Inviting friends and family to a bridal shower hosted by coworkers is tacky.

Who should be invited to the Bridal Shower?

You can invite whomever you want to your bridal shower. Your guest list should certainly include your mother, your future mother-in-law, and your maid or matron of honor. If the bride or the groom has a stepmother, she should also be invited. Traditionally, a bridal shower involves only women. But, co-ed bridal showers are gaining in popularity. This decision is one you will have to make when creating your guest list.

Typically, brides-to-be invite their immediate family members to attend their bridal showers. They also invite all of the female members of the bridal party, and the male members if the bridal shower is co-ed, and other close relatives. Close friends are also invited to the bridal shower. As a rule of thumb, only people who have been invited to the wedding itself should be invited to the bridal shower.

It is uncouth to invite someone to the shower without also inviting him or her to the wedding as it implies you are only interested in receiving his or her gifts. You are not, however, expected to invite everyone who will be attending the wedding. Of course, bridal showers hosted by co-workers are the exception – you are not expected to invite your co-workers to your wedding, even if they do throw you a bridal shower.

If you are having a difficult time deciding who to invite to your bridal shower and who not to invite, take a look at your wedding guest list. First, eliminate all of the females with whom the bride does not know directly, such as the wives of male friends. Next, cross off people who were invited to the wedding simply because it is “proper,” but who are not close to the bride. This can include distant relatives or female friends of the bride-to-be’s parents.

What if there will be more than One Bridal Shower?

If you will be having more than one bridal shower, mothers, stepmothers, and female siblings on both sides, as well as the maid of honor, should be invited to every shower. None of these women, however, should be expected to provide a gift at each shower. In addition, the female siblings of the groom should have the option of choosing to attend only one of the showers. Any other guests should be only invited to one of the showers. If you do choose to invite someone to more than one shower, be sure to make it perfectly clear that the person is not expected to bring a gift each time.

Six Suggestions for Do-It-Yourself Bridal Shower Invitations

A bridal shower is a time for fun and happiness. It is an opportunity for the bride-to-be to share in the company of her friends and family, while being “showered” by gifts of love and affection. To add to the personal feel of the shower and to create an intimate touch, it can be a great idea to create do-it-yourself bridal shower invitations. Your guests will certainly appreciate the time it takes you to create these invitations. In addition, creating your own invitations can often help you save money in the long run and will ensure that your cards fit perfectly within your bridal shower theme.

Add the Personal Touch

There are many ways you can personalize your handmade bridal shower invitations. One is to add a picture of yourself and your fiancé to the invitation. Programs such as Macromedia Fireworks and Adobe Photoshop are great for manipulating photographs and adding special effects. With such programs, you can create a textured look, add borders, or make a cameo-style oval shape of the photo.

Choose the Right Design

If you don’t want to add a picture to your invitation, you should still add some sort of clip art or design. Take your time to look around on the Internet for different images that might work for your invitations. There are many free clip-art images available, and you might be able to find one that will fit your theme beautifully.

Make or Select the Right Paper

Making your own paper for your handmade bridal shower invitations can truly add a special touch. If you cannot make your own paper, be sure to choose the highest quality paper you can manage. The paper quality will have a far greater impact on the final look and feel of your handmade bridal shower invitations than you may realize.

Choose the Right Font

If you are going to print your handmade shower invitations, be sure to take the time to select the right font color, style, and size. The lettering on your invitation can make a great impact on setting the mood for your bridal shower.

Do a Few Trial Runs

After you have come up with what you think is the perfect font and design for your do-it-yourself shower invitations, print one off with regular printer paper. This will help you make sure it has the look you are really after, without wasting your more expensive, high quality paper. After you are sure your invitation is just perfect, go ahead and print them all off.

Try Something New

Making your own bridal shower invitations is a great time to try something new. Embossing your own bridal shower invitations can make them look classy and unique. In addition, your guests will appreciate the time and effort it takes to create these cards. To emboss your do-it-yourself bridal shower invitations, you will need to obtain an embossing heat tool, which will cost approximately \$35 at a craft store. This is a worthwhile investment because you will be able to use it for many different special occasions, including creating thank you notes, programs, and invitations. You can also use an embossing heat tool with the hobby of scrapbooking (maybe you can put one together after the wedding!).

You will also need embossing powder, which costs about \$5 per bottle, in the colors you need. An embossing inepad, costing about \$5, and stamps, which cost about \$5-10 each, will also need to be purchased.

The stamp will serve as the image you will use on your do-it-yourself bridal shower invitations. Therefore, you should pick out a couple that seem to fit within the theme of the shower or, if you wish, the theme of the wedding. You may also simply choose a design or image that represents love, such as two intertwined hearts or a tulip design. These stamps can also be used over and over and can go beyond just your bridal shower invitations. In fact, you might choose to emboss the design or picture on the program at your wedding or on the menu cards at your reception.

The colored embossing powder you will use to create your invitations will actually go a long way. Therefore, you might want to just stick to one or two colors in order to keep the cost down. One or two bottles should be plenty to create all the cards you need.

The actual process of embossing is quite simple. First, stamp the inkpad with the stamp you selected for your do-it-yourself bridal shower invitations. Then, sprinkle some of your embossing powder over the stamped area. Tap off the excess powder and let it fall onto another piece of plain paper. The excess powder can be returned to its container by creasing the plain paper and using it as a funnel to pour the powder back in. After the excess embossing powder has been removed, apply heat to the area by holding your embossing heat tool near to, but not directly on, the area. Continue applying heat for several seconds until the embossing powder is melted into the image or design you desire.

After you get good at this process, you can use different colors within the same design. Or, you can choose to use a couple different designs. The best part is that no two invitations will be exactly the same – making each one a truly unique gift to each of your guests!

No Money Honey? No Problem! Ten Money Saving Tips for Your Bridal Shower

Planning a bridal shower can be an exciting event, but it can also be a relatively expensive one. Between trying to get the invitations out, plan for the food, purchase wedding shower favors, and still pick up a nice gift for the bride, you and your pocket book may feel quite overwhelmed with the whole process. Fortunately, there are several ways you can save some serious cash when you throw your next bridal shower.

One of the first ways to save money is to hold the shower in your home. With the proper decorations, you can provide the casual, festive feel a bridal shower should have, but hold down the cost of renting a location or paying the long tab at the restaurant where you held the shower.

If you don't want to have your shower at home, you can still save some money with our second tip. Hold your shower in a public place. For example, if you are holding a spring or summer shower, and your city has some nice parks, call the local parks and recreation department. You can usually reserve a shelter for no cost, and let nature provide the beautiful backdrop for your shower.

When you decide to hold your shower can also save you some money. If you end up holding it earlier in the day, say two o'clock, you will save dramatically. Planning an evening shower means you will probably be serving a meal and drinks to each of the guests. Planning for an afternoon shower, though, means only light finger foods and possibly a cake as well. This can save you some serious cash.

Deciding on the decorations is another way to save some money. If you are going with a themed shower, try to make your own decorations instead of purchasing expensive ones. For example, if you are planning a beach party theme, you could create small votive centerpieces with a mason jar, some sand, and some seashells. The entire centerpiece will cost less than a few dollars. If you had gone with a pre-made decoration, you may have spent upwards of twelve dollars each.

Another way to save money on your bridal shower is to ask the bridesmaids to chip in on your biggest expense, the food. Once a woman is chosen for bridesmaid, she expects to help with things like a wedding shower. You could have each bridesmaid bring two dishes. You could just have them come over and help you chop vegetables. Anything that might give you a helping hand and save you some money is a good job for a bridesmaid.

A sixth way to save money on your bridal shower is to make your own invitations. Invitations can easily be one of the most expensive parts of a bridal shower. You can make your own embossed invitations for about fifty dollars. You can make your own computerized invitations for the cost of the ink and the paper. When it comes to creating your own invitations, there are hundreds of options. Most of them will save you a bundle over the pre-made invitations.

An additional way to save money on your bridal shower is to create your own wedding shower favors. You don't have to do something terribly creative here, but finding some inexpensive things that you can assemble into a favor is a perfect idea. For example, you could find a large box of chocolates in fun shapes and slip a few of them into a candy gift bag. For about ten dollars, you have more wedding shower favors than you probably need.

An eighth way to save money on your bridal shower is to make sure that you don't purchase pre-made food. Simple things like chopping your own vegetables or making cheese dip in the crockpot instead of buying it in the container can save you thirty to forty percent.

If you would rather not make your own decorations, wedding favors, or invitations, try getting some in an inexpensive manner. If you know someone who just held a wedding shower, buy their extras. Better yet, buy yours in bulk and sell the leftovers on an auction website. It may actually cover all of the costs of your shower.

The final tip to cut back is one that you want to leave as a final tip. If you have to, cut your guest list down. Try just inviting the family members to the shower or just the wedding party. Remember that not everyone on the wedding guest list has to be invited to the shower as well.

Keep Your Arm and Leg – Seven Unique Ways to Cut the Cost of your Bridal Shower Invitations

Hosting a bridal shower can be a fun and exciting experience. It, however, can involve some pretty extensive planning and costs. You have to decide who to invite. You have to figure out where you plan to hold the party. You need to decide on a theme for your party. You even have to decide what to do at the party, like which games to play, when to eat, and when to open gifts. You have to choose and supply to food for the party. You even have to come up with a cake to help the bride and the guests celebrate.

Most importantly, though, you have to come up with invitations to let everyone know when and where the shower will be held. This can, easily, be one of the most expensive parts of the entire wedding shower. There are so many different kinds of invitations to choose from. You can choose one that reflects the bride's wedding invitation. You can choose to send out invitations that reflect your theme. You can choose embossed invitations. You can even make

your own invitations. However, if you are on a tight budget for your wedding shower, you may be looking to cut the costs of your invitations.

One easy way to cut the cost of your bridal shower invitations is to create your own embossed invitations. An embossed invitation gives an elegant, sophisticated feel to the wedding shower. It will help you make the party uniquely yours. A handmade embossed invitation starts with a quick trip to the craft store. Once there, you will need to invest in an embossing heat tool, embossing powder in your desired colors, an embossing inepad, and stamps. Don't forget the paper. The entire set up will cost you about one hundred dollars. This should be the only set of costs involved with this type of invitation.

Moreover, most of your set-up costs are materials that you can reuse for other projects like scrapbooking, thank you notes, and other party invitations in the future. When you go to choose the stamp or stamps, be sure to choose something that fits in with the theme of the wedding or the party. Once you have all of your supplies, simply stamp the stamp pad, and then the paper. Sprinkle some powder and shake off the excess. Power up your heating tool, and then apply heat to the stamped and powered area. You now have some of the best, cheapest invitations you can make.

Another easy way to keep the costs down on your bridal shower invitations is by purchasing invitations at the store that are clearance material. For the most part, stores restock their invitation store from season to season. In order to clear out older material, they seriously discount the prices. Some stores discount the prices by up to ninety percent. This means that if you were planning to purchase a set of invitations that cost forty dollars, you can get them for just a few bucks if you are able to find them on clearance. These invitations are usually just as good as the newer models, and usually, there is nothing on the invitations to date them, which means that you can use them at any point in the future. If you have your eye on a set of invitations, watch them for a clearance price.

A third great ways to hold down wedding shower invitation costs is to shop at closeout stores for pre-made wedding invitations. Closeout stores specialize in purchasing large quantities of merchandise that larger companies simply don't want in their stock rooms anymore. Maybe they aren't selling well, or maybe the store needs to make room for new merchandise. Either way, a nice, brand name set of invitations can be yours at about half of the cost they were regularly sold for.

An additional way to keep the costs down on your bridal shower invitations is to make a theme invitation with scrapbooking supplies. With the explosion of the scrapbooking hobby, many stores now carry specialty papers, stickers, and pens that make excellent themed invitation supplies. For example, if you want a beach party wedding shower, you could purchase paper with a shell background. You can find some little flip-flop stickers, and a summery colored pen to complete all of your text with. For around thirty dollars, you have all of the supplies you need to make for any wedding shower theme.

A fifth way to keep your wedding shower invitation costs down is to purchase some software to help you make wedding shower invitations on your computer. There are a number of different programs that will serve to make your wedding shower invitations, cards, and other fun things. Just buy some fun paper, and you're on your way to some neat wedding shower invitations.

Another way to keep your wedding shower invitation costs down is to check with the bride's wedding invitation printer. Many of them offer some great package deals. For example, sometimes they'll be happy to give you fifty free shower invitations with the purchase of five hundred wedding invitations. This can be a great deal for you if the bride has already placed a large order for her wedding invitations.

One final way to keep your wedding shower invitation costs down is to look for websites that offer free printable invitations. Many sites will give you a free trial with their product by offering some free invitations. Often these look just as good as the ones you might purchase in the store.

Finding discounted bridal shower invitations or making your own can be a great way to save some cash when you assemble the perfect shower.

Important Info to Include on Bridal Shower Invitations

Preparing bridal shower invitations can be a huge chore, especially if you are inviting a large amount of guests. There is a lot of information that should be included on the invitation and getting it right the first time will actually save the hostess time. If you do not include the important information potential guests may need to call and ask questions and this will be a huge waste of time for the hostess. Another reason having detailed information that covers all the bases are so important is that it helps the potential guests plan for the event. Planning their travel arrangements, clothing attire and gift possibilities are just some things the potential guests are going to want to plan for.

Of course the first thing on the invitation should be the bride to be or the couple's names. This is some thing that the hostess may want to consult with the bride to be about. If the party is a women only party then the bride to be will probably just be the name listed on the invitation. If the party is for men and women then the hostess will probably want to include the bride to be and the groom to be on the invitations.

The date of the bridal shower should also be included. This is vital, as the guests will need to plan for it and avoid other appointments or priorities. The date will also help the potential guest determine the weather at that particular time of year and they can plan travel times around winter weather or rainy weather conditions if it applies. Also if the guests are out of town or have to travel a long distance they may need to make flight reservations or other travel plans. They may also need to book a hotel room if they need to travel overnight.

Time of day that the shower is going to take place should be the next thing included on the invitation. This one is pretty logical. If it is not listed how are the guests supposed to know when to show up? Unless you want a bunch of phone calls questioning the time of the shower, include it on the invitation.

The address of the location that the bridal shower is going to be held is another vital fact that should be listed on the invitations. This is like the time of the bridal shower, if it is not on the

invitation how are people supposed to come? Also do not just list the name of the person who is having it at their home or do not just list the restaurant or any other place you may be hosting the party. Always list the complete street address including the city, state and zip code.

The name of the hostess along with a phone number where she can normally be reached should be included on the invitations. If the hostess can be reached at one number by day and another by night include both numbers and specify when to call each of them. If a potential guest has a question they will need to contact the hostess.

If the hostess requests to be contacted by a certain date, notifying them who can attend, then the RSVP date and time should be included in the invitation. This is only necessary if this information is required for a bridal shower that may need reservations or catered.

Bridal shower theme should be included on the invitation if there is one. This will help the guests plan for a gift and clothing attire. If the hostess has designated a theme and would like particular gifts brought to the shower then she should include the gift suggestions on the invitation as well.

Other things you may want to include are the couple's home decorating colors, a map to the location of the bridal shower, and where the bride has registered. Also remember that if the couple has made any special requests to include it on the invitation. Whatever you decide all of the above will save you time and energy during the planning stages by giving the most information to the potential guests. The guests will also appreciate a thorough invitation so that they can plan accordingly.

Words Say It Best – Great Ideas for Your Bridal Shower Invitation

Bridal showers are an essential part of the wedding process. In simpler times, they helped the bride get the gifts she would need to start her new life as a wife. They were essentially gifts she would need around the house. Our society tends to be much less traditional these days. Now bridal showers are typically structured around a theme. They are, essentially, parties with a mission. Sometimes the mission is the more traditional getting the bride ready to run a house of her own, and other times the mission is equipping her kitchen or preparing her for a life of camping trips with her husband-to-be. Whatever the overall goal of the shower, the invitation is the most important part, as it is what guests will respond to.

When you get ready to send out invitations, the first thing you must consider is design. You have a few options in this arena. First, you could look at the wedding invitations the bride and groom are going to send out. This would give you the chance to send out similar invitations and stick with the overall theme of the wedding.

If, however, your wedding shower has a theme of its own, you will probably want to choose an invitation that reflects that theme. You can be as creative as you like in this arena. For example, if you are having a kitchen shower, you could create an invitation that mimics a recipe card. If you are having a beach party shower, you could create invitations that look like little beach towels. You can either create your themed wedding shower invitation yourself or you might look

into having someone create it for you. Some places, party stores and such, have bridal shower invitations that are preprinted. You simply fill in the necessary information. If you'd like to have something a bit classier, you can look into having the bridal shower invitations specially printed for your party.

Most printers have a portfolio of invitations they would be willing to create for your party. This tends to look a bit classier and more sophisticated. If neither of these options meets your needs, you will have to create the invitation yourself. With the renewed interest in things like scrapbooking, though, this shouldn't be a difficult process.

Because so many people are interested in creative paper goods, many hobby stores carry a large selection of creative papers, scissors, stamps, and stickers to help you create the invitation of your dreams. Most even have a section of paper that can be fed into your home printer if you wish to computerize your text. For example, if you want to create a beach party wedding shower, you might go to the hobby store and choose a paper with a seashell background. Print out the invitation wording, cut the edges with a clamshell shaped scissor, and decorate with some beach chair stickers. You suddenly have a much better invitation than you could ever have ordered or purchased in a store.

The invitation design is important, but the invitation wording is equally as important. One of the most important things on the invitation is the name of the bride. You will also need to list the date and time of your wedding shower. Moreover, do not forget to list the location. You will need to list the person who will be handling the RSVPs and their phone number. Listing a deadline to reply to an RSVP is common. Two weeks prior to the shower should give you enough time. You should also consider listing who will be hosting the shower. If you wish, just list the names of the hostesses. You could, though, list the hostess' titles instead of the names. For example, if the hostess' are the bridesmaids, you could just say something like "The bridesmaids of Jane Doe invite you . . ."

Additionally, it is essential to list where the bride-to-be has registered for gifts so your guests can get her something she really desires. A typical wedding shower invitation wording would read something like "Please join us for a bridal shower in honor of Jane Doe on Sunday, January 31 at 2 p.m. at the Franklin Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 123 America Street, Anywhere, Arkansas."

Send your invitations out about one month before the shower, and you will give the bride the best party she could hope for.

Don't Discount Online Bridal Shower Invitations

Bridal shower invitations are not something some people would put a lot of thought into. After all, the wedding is the most important day right? But buying bridal shower invitations should be treated somewhat the same. Do you just want to go out and buy a package at your nearest shopping center? I doubt it. You should do your research and find what the best option available is. Buying bridal shower invitations online is a great option. There are many advantages to buying online and this article will help you understand why buying online may be

a great alternative.

Why buy online? There are a lot of reasons but a few are very important. One of the biggest reasons buying bridal shower invitations online is convenience. How many other things do you purchase online? This should be no different. You can browse hundreds of invitations from your home. There are sites that let you preview the inside, outside and back of the invitations. Online invitation vendors also may offer different papers, ink and envelopes for your convenience. Buying bridal shower invitations online can also save you money. Often the websites are selling the invitations at wholesale prices.

Also they can offer the invitations at a reduced cost because the company's overhead to run an online store is much cheaper than stocking a store and hiring staff to run a retail store. If you are purchasing a lot of invitations they will also probably offer a bulk discount or package deals if you purchase envelopes and other invitation accompaniments, such as seals and RSVP cards.

Purchasing bridal shower invitations online is very simple. The first step would be to do a simple search. You can simply search for keywords, such as, bridal shower invitations or bridal shower invites. If you have a specific theme for the shower you could do a search for the theme, for example, if you are hosting a book or reading theme bridal shower you could search for keywords like, book bridal shower. Of course searching for a specific themed shower invitation can be harder for some themes. The Internet has so many options though that I believe there is the perfect invite for everyone's needs.

You can also request samples to be mailed to you on most sites. This allows you to see the invitation in person rather than on a screen. After you find the invitation you need you then need to read the site's purchasing terms, make sure to check and see if they offer any specials for large orders or if you buy something else. After reading all the fine print you can then go ahead and make your purchase. The concept of buying online can seem scary to someone who has never done it before but it is just as safe as buying anywhere else. Most sites offer credit card payments and some even accept checks electronically.

The variety of bridal shower invitations offered online is tremendous! One may feel overwhelmed with the choices. This is a good thing though as you can shop around until you are happy. A convenient thing about shopping online also is the ability to send a link to the bride or any other person involved in the planning of the shower. The ability to preview the invitations online is great and some sites even give you the opportunity to customize the bridal shower invitation and preview it instantly. You can change things such as color of the text to the pictures on the invitations. The option of customizing online is a great advantage that you can get buying online that you cannot get by buying at a local card store. If a local place offers custom invitations they will more than likely charge a lot more than the online sites.

In conclusion buying bridal shower invitations online is a very good idea. Do not think that browsing through all of the online options is time consuming. You must keep in mind how much time it will take to drive to and from a store and also the time it will take if you do not find what you want at one store and have to go shopping on an entire day. Sometimes one day of shopping will still leave you empty handed! So do not discount online bridal shower invitations!

Emailed Bridal Shower Invites vs. Snail Mail – The Pros and Cons

E-mail is the great equalizer. Business people and busy housewives alike love the ease with which they can send out communications, large and small, with the click of a button. No longer tied to the tedious observation of business hours, anyone can now get in touch with a business, pay a bill, purchase a shirt, or research the life of Abraham Lincoln – in the middle of the night, at five in the morning, when the baby is finally asleep, the first grader is finally in school, dinner plates are finally washed, or any other moment that allows someone caught up in the hectic hustle and bustle of life to catch a breath.

It is no wonder that greetings cards have gone by the wayside a bit and made room for the e-card. As a matter of fact, if it were not for such electronic cards, many would probably not get any Easter or Christmas cards, or perhaps some would not send any! Thus, it is not surprising that the next new wave in electronic greetings is the electronic invitation.

Of course, some purists purse their lips at the idea of sending invitations through cyberspace, and in some cases many would agree. For example is it appropriate to send a birthday party invitation via the Internet? What about a Super Bowl party invitation? Many agree that these occasions are somewhat informal and therefore an electronic invitation truly is all that is required. Yet what about the more formal occasion of a bridal shower? Should bridal shower invites be emailed or sent via snail mail?

Anyone who routinely marks down to eschew procrastination on the annual New Years resolution list will most likely applaud the notion of sending the invites via email. After all, if the party is the day after tomorrow, it is indeed a bit too late to still send out anything via the post office. On the other hand, if the party is still a week away or perhaps even further on the horizon, would the formality of the occasion not warrant a handwritten card?

Traditionalists have long since felt that bridal shower invitations quite often become keepsakes for the bride and groom, and perhaps also for the guests, and so it is much more appropriate to have the tangible form of invitation rather than simply the electronic message. At the same time, some bridal shower organizers go through great lengths to hand make beautifully crafted cards, envelopes, and return envelopes, and with the help of rubber stamps, glue, some simple craft supplies, and a lot of time and patience send out these small masterpieces to friends and family who love to receive them.

Obviously there is no good answer. By way of suggestion, here are some times that it appears to be best to send out e-mailed invitations:

If you have procrastinated with your paper invitations and the party is only a few short days away, don't wait any longer but send out an e-mail blitz to get as many friends and family members informed as possible.

If the bride and groom are not much concerned with tradition, but do not really care about the niceties of mailed versus e-mailed invitations, go ahead and e-mail them.

If the bride is a cyber junkie, go ahead and e-mail them. This would be right up her ally!

If one or more of the guest to be have specifically requested to receive an e-mailed invitation, please be sure to honor that request. They might not be looking for a piece of snail mail, and so your beautifully crafted invite may get stuck between a few pieces of junk mail.

If the bride and groom shy away from the traditional trappings of a wedding ceremony, and are instead modernizing the whole experience, then it might also be appropriate to modernize the bridal shower experience.

Obviously, for the majority of brides and grooms as well as their friends and families, handwritten and mailed invitations are still the best way to go. Many will hold on to those little written gems and put them in scrap books and photo albums, where they will be treasured for years and quite possibly decades to come.

Why Have Your Own Bridal Shower Website? Why Not!

Technology today makes so many things possible. Instant messaging keeps us in contact with loved ones, email does the same. Instantly, it all saves us time and money. No stamps to buy, no phone bills, no waiting for a response for days on end. People have websites for all kinds of reasons, selling stuff, sharing photos, telling stories and just about any other reason out there you can think of. So why not start a website for your bridal shower? There are so many possibilities as to what you could include on a personal bridal shower website it is amazing. This article will give you some ideas and tips for creating your very own personal bridal shower website.

A personal bridal shower website can be very useful and convenient for any bride to be. It could be personalized with just about anything the bride desires. She could upload pictures of herself and her soon to be husband. If she chose to she could put pictures of her wedding plans on it, such as, the bridesmaid's dresses, flower girl dress, and tuxedo choices. The possibilities are endless with pictures. She could also put up pictures of the chosen wedding party or the parents of the bride and groom.

The engagement announcement may be placed on a website for distribution to family located around the world. To direct the website more towards a bridal shower the bride could post the invitation and she then could send it out to anyone with access to the internet. The bride to be can also place lists of stores or even better links to the store's website where she has registered for gifts. The theme of the bridal shower could be described on the website along with a link to a website giving directions to the location of the bridal shower.

Bridal shower websites are not only convenient for the bride to be but also for the hostess of the bridal shower. The website could be set up with a link to the hostess' email and potential guests could ask questions, get gift suggestions, and ask about the theme of the bridal shower. The hostess could also request on the website that guests RSVP by email.

Websites can be set up to accommodate a message board format and that may also be a great addition where the guests could interact with each other regarding the bride to be and the

bridal shower. Of course if this were something the hostess would want to do it would be best to keep it separate from a site that the bride to be can use.

Another asset to using a personal bridal shower website is that it is a great way to get the information out to potential guests without the worry of lost mail. If the guests miss it, you can just refer them back to the site address and they can review the invitation again. If a change to the party agenda or theme is made you can instantly post the change to the website and send out a mass email letting everyone know that the site has been updated.

There are so many websites that offer free website hosting for people that have little to no experience in web design. A bride to be or hostess of a bridal shower could easily create a beautiful and useful website in no time. The Internet is full of resources that assist people in creating professional looking websites for free using website templates that you simply upload pictures too and input the desired text. Of course if you want a truly professional site you can also pay a professional to design one for you. When you are done using the website for your bridal shower needs you can easily convert it to your personal wedding website and then into your honeymoon website, the possibilities are endless!

How to Keep Bridal Shower Thank You Notes from Being Such a Chore

After the bridal shower is all over, here comes the wedding stress. Does the bride to be really have time to send out thank you notes to all of her bridal shower guests? She probably does not but the guests need to be thanked. Thank you notes need to be done in a timely matter and must be done in a way that shows sincerity. The thank you notes may seem like a huge chore but it is a requirement that must be met. In this article some tips on how to keep bridal shower thank you notes from being such a chore will be given. These ideas are practical and some are very creative. The thank you note process can be fun and should be made to be fun so as to eliminate the feeling of a chore.

If the hostess has included you in the plans for the bridal shower, as she should, you could maybe ask her if she could make duplicate envelopes when writing up the envelopes for the invitations. This would save you time when the time comes to send out the thank you notes. You would only have to write a little note in the thank you card and put it in the pre-addressed envelopes.

If you do not want to impose on the wonderful person throwing the bridal shower then offer to help with the invitations and do the duplicate envelopes yourself. If you have a home computer or know someone who does you could also print up mailing labels for the guests who will be attending the shower, the labels can be saved on your computer and may come in handy with the wedding gift thank you notes. If you do not have access to a computer then you could order return address labels and it would save half the time by allowing you to only add the recipient's address. The envelopes are probably the most tedious part of the thank you note and invitation process.

Another option if you have a home computer is to use a template or greeting card program and design your own thank you notes. You could then save time and energy by typing a custom

message to each person you need to thank and print the thank you note out and mail it away! There are many free templates out on the Internet that are quite easy to use. Investing in a card design computer program may be a wise investment if you have not done so already as you could use it for the wedding thank you notes too. The convenience of a computer also offers up the opportunity to send electronic thank you notes via email. Of course this would require the guests to give you an email address and the email method of delivery is less personal.

At the wedding shower you could use a game to make the thank you note process less of a chore. For example, you could hold a drawing for a prize or two. As the guests arrive ask them to write their name and address on the thank you note envelopes. Let them know that you will be drawing one or two of the envelopes at the end of the party and the names drawn will receive a special surprise. Not only does it save you time addressing envelopes but the guests have fun with it as well. This method will also assure you that you have your guests' addresses correct since they are the one providing the information.

If you have a large bridal shower with a lot of guests you may want to consider creating general thank you notes. A general thank you note could simply thank the guest for attending the bridal shower and state that any gift received was more than you could have ever wanted. These general thank you notes can be made creative by making them into place cards for the guests if you are having a meal. You could also have the thank you note printed on candy bar wrappers and hand them out as the guests leave the bridal shower.

So as you can see writing out your bridal shower thank you notes will not be a chore if you get creative and use your imagination. Make it fun and enjoy your day with your guests!

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