



WEDDING ETIQUETTE 101

Congratulations, you just said YES but now what? Organising your big event can be overwhelming but it doesn't have to be stressful.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions that you may be pondering...

Q&A:

- 1. Who do we tell first?** *A: Your parents and/or immediate family should be the first to hear the news before you make an official announcement on social media. You don't want them to learn the news through another source other than you.*
- 2. How do we announce our engagement to friends, relatives etc.?** *A: Your immediate family is worthy of being told the news in person...this is an exciting time for them too. If it can't be done in person, call them. Get your close friends together for dinner or a lunch out (especially those you are considering as part of your wedding party). If not, give them a call before you post it to your Facebook account!*
- 3. Are we supposed to have an engagement party? If so, who do we need to invite?** *A: You are certainly not obligated to have an engagement party but why not bask in all the glory of the big news! As far as invitations, generally your immediate families and close extended families should receive an invitation. Anyone that you are considering as part of your wedding party should also receive an invite.*
- 4. How do we compose our guest list?** *A: This can be the most daunting task of wedding preparations and one of this first tasks I recommend tackling with your partner. For tips on how to make your guest list go to www.theknot.com and register. You will find some great advice on how to simplify this challenge.*
- 5. When do we send out invitations and how long should guests have to RSVP?** *A: Invitations should go out no later than 3 months in advance of your wedding date. Give more time for a destination wedding to allow guests to make adequate travel arrangements. (typically 6+ months in advance) You will want your RSVP date to be 3-4 weeks prior to your wedding date.*
- 6. Who should I choose as my persons of Honour? My wedding party? Do I need to buy them gifts?** *A: Your Person of Honour should be someone that you hold dear to your heart, your best friend. This could be a sister, brother, cousin, childhood friend or otherwise. Choose someone that will genuinely want to be a part of your wedding preparations. For your Wedding Party, first consider the size of your wedding, include your siblings (unless estranged; invite your sisters/brothers) and your dearest friend(s). As for wedding party favours, generally a small gift (dependant on budget) is given out to the wedding party at the rehearsal dinner...this can be something for them to wear with their wedding attire or a small token of choice. Attendants usually pay for their own attire.*



- 7. Who should I ask to host the Wedding Shower? Do I have to have one?** *A: One should never host his/her own shower. With that being said, the Persons of Honour and/or Mother(s) would be appropriate for hosting. A Wedding shower is certainly not a mandatory event however, this traditional celebration is a great opportunity to get your close friends and family together for some fun and laughter.*
- 8. Should I allow my guests to bring a date to the wedding?** *A: As a general rule, if your guest has a significant other, then yes. The invite should then be addressed to the couple. You are not obligated to include a guest when the invitee is single.*
- 9. Kids or no kids?** *A: This is personal choice. If you say no to kids, stick to it. Some people may allow a breastfeeding mother to bring her baby but again, this is personal choice. Don't make exceptions for your best friend's kids but not for your cousin Sam from Delaware. It is appropriate to have the ring bearer and flower girl(s) in attendance in all situations.*
- 10. Who should walk me down the Aisle and do I have to be escorted?** *A: You can choose whomever you like to walk you down the aisle....perhaps you would like both parents, your mom, and maybe your brother or uncle. It is completely up to you. There is no rule stating that you cannot walk it solo! It's your day, do whatever feels natural to you.*
- 11. Can we walk down the aisle together?** *A: This is your day. You can choose to enter into your ceremony as a couple or perhaps you would like something more traditional. Every couple is unique, talk to your Wedding Planner about how you would like your ceremony to flow.*
- 12. Can I ask for monetary gifts instead of having a registry?** *A: This is still somewhat controversial. More and more couples are asking for things like gift cards towards a home renovation, travel agencies and even VISA/MasterCard. If you prefer a monetary gift over flatware, I would recommend letting close family and friends know your preference (this way, they can help share with those asking). You could also set up a suggestive card table with a treasure box or something similar. Rule #1 Never ask for money on your invitations.*
- 13. Do I need to have a rehearsal?** *A: Yes. I highly recommend having a rehearsal whether your wedding is large or small. This gives you the opportunity to spend some time with your commissioner and Wedding Planner to go over any last minute details regarding how you would like your ceremony to roll out. It also gives your wedding party direction so they know what is expected on the day of. This event usually will take place the day before your wedding. Check with your commissioner as this service is usually included in your booking.*
- 14. Should I tip my wedding Vendors?** *A: Be sure to review your contracts, some may have a gratuity included in your quoted price. This most certainly will apply to your food/beverage. It will typically be around 15 – 20% of your total cost, be careful not to double tip. Additional Vendors you may want to consider tipping that go above and beyond may include (but not limited to) you stylist/make-up artists, limousine driver, bartenders, musicians, parking attendants and so on. This is discretionary. You do not need to tip your large contractors such as Venue, Tent/Table Rentals etc. Tips should never be expected, your wedding is already costing you both!*



- 15. Do I have to give a speech/toast at my wedding?** *A: You may choose not to have any speeches at your wedding or, you may want a traditional reception with several taking stand at the podium. It is completely up to you and what you are comfortable with. If you would like to limit your speeches, I recommend that you make time for your parents and persons of honour. You are not obligated to give a speech at your wedding however, a formal welcome/thank you is a nice touch. Speeches should never happen during dinner service. It is best to have them pre/post meal time. Nobody wants to hear the clanging of dishes during your Aunt Betty's emotional speech!*
- 16. How do we choose our MC?** *A: You don't want your best friend as your MC or anyone in your wedding party for that matter. They will be too busy supporting you both on your special day. This person should know you both well (possibly a family friend, co-worker, paid host etc.) You will want to select them carefully as they will be a reflection of you as a couple. Be sure that they are comfortable speaking in front of crowds and will be respectful of your wishes. This is an important role and you want to be sure that you choose someone who is socially responsible.*
- 17. If we want to do a gift opening the next day, who am I obligated to invite?** *A: This is no longer a tradition however, it is still a very popular event amongst couples. Generally this event is hosted by a member of the family and takes place the following day. Typically a brunch/lunch style with close friends and immediate family.*
- 18. How long do I have to send out thank you notes for wedding gifts?** *A: Thank you notes to your attendants should follow within a three month grace period for gifts. Be sure to handwrite your notes and make reference to the person as well as the gift received. You should never print a general thank you note, it's impersonal. If you receive a monetary gift in the mail from an out of town family member or friend, a thank you card should follow within a few days. Make note of how you plan on using the funds "Thank you for your generous gift Aunt Mable! We will have a toast to you on our Honeymoon in Hawaii!"*