

Wedding Stationery Timeline

Useful FAQ's when planning your Wedding



Your Wedding Stationery

This is one of the most *important* elements of your **Wedding Day** as it sets the tone for your special day and brings together the important aspects regarding your venue, your colour scheme or theme, whilst also conveying important information to your wedding guests. However, there are several different elements which can make ordering wedding stationery a little confusing as you may never have had to do any of this before and I want to guide you through the process easily.

This is grouped into *three* categories....

12 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

1. **Pre-Wedding Stationery:** This is anything sent out before your Wedding Day including Save the Date cards, your Wedding invitations, RSVP cards and information cards providing details of your venue, information about wedding gifts etc
2. **On- the-Day Stationery:** This is any stationery that is part of your actual ceremony and wedding celebrations such as your Order of Service, a Table Plan, Table Numbers, Place Cards or even wedding signage to direct your guests to rooms etc and any other signage such as for special drinks you could be incorporating into your day. Can also include such things as favour boxes, gift tags and Wedding post box etc.
3. **Post-Wedding Stationery:** This is your Thank You Cards for sending to your guests to thank them for attending your Special Day and their wedding gifts and to thank any non-attendees who may have sent you a card or gift.

Before you get started with your Wedding Stationery, you have a few things to confirm:

- Your **wedding venue and the date of your wedding**
- Your **guest list** numbers
- Any **themes or colour schemes** that you wish to have incorporated into your stationery.

It's extremely important to **book a discussion with your stationery designer approximately 10-12 months before** your wedding to look at samples, confirm which paper and card you like and get a feel for design styles. Handmade stationery takes on average 6-8 weeks to make (dependant on numbers required, it can often take 10-12 weeks), so looking into ordering your stationery at an early stage is a must.

9 – 12 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

Send your Save the Date cards

To help ensure your family and close friends are available for your wedding date, you should send save the date cards as soon as possible, but only **after you have finalised your date and venue**. Note: *If you're having a destination wedding, you should give your guests more time to plan and budget.* Your stationery should be co-ordinated, and your Save the Dates should match your invitations, table plan etc. It's useful to choose Save the Date cards that can be easily pinned to a notice board or fridge with a fridge magnet.

5 – 8 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

Finalise your wedding stationery

Your stationery designer will work closely with you to finalise things like the paper stock, sizes, colours, fonts and any embellishments such as wax seals, gold leaf or tassels on your wedding stationery.

3 – 6 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

Send out your wedding invitations

Your wedding invitations are an important aspect of your wedding, and many guests like to keep them forever as a memento of your day. You should allow plenty of time for your stationery designer to create, print and deliver your invitations. If you're incorporating things like illustrations of your venue this may take additional time. You should also consider how long it will take you to write out the invitations and envelopes and send them to your guests, particularly if you have work and family commitments alongside your wedding.

RSVP CARDS

You should send RSVP details out with your wedding invitations. Some couples like to send a physical card for their guests to complete, others might include an email address or direct guests to their wedding website. If you are sending physical cards, you should also include a stamped addressed envelope. Don't forget to include a date that your guests should confirm by. This will vary depending on where you are getting married, so let your wedding venue guide you on this.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You can also include information cards or scripts with your invitations, detailing menu options, venue directions, accommodation details etc.

1 – 6 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

Confirm your wording for your Order of Service

The order of service is a programme to your wedding, guiding your guests through the timings of each part of the day. They can be handed out by ushers before your ceremony, or some couples like to place them on the seats. The Order of Service is normally a double-sided card, folded card or booklet. Some couples also like to have a sign at the entrance at the venue with key timings on it to allow your evening guests, who wouldn't normally receive the order of service, to know timings for your evening reception. The Order of Service should match your other wedding stationery, and some couples like to personalise them with hand drawn elements drawn from the wedding theme. The deadline for your Order of Service will depend on your wedding venue's regulations and may vary depending on whether you are having a civil ceremony or religious service. You should take guidance from your wedding coordinator on this.

6-10 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

Finalise your 'on the day' wedding stationery

It's time for those finishing touches! Your stationery designer will work with you to finalise things like menus, place cards, seating charts, favours, and any bespoke signage you are having commissioned.

4 – 6 WEEKS AFTER YOUR WEDDING

Send out thank you cards

Once the celebrations have ceased, remember the importance of manners and etiquette by sending out thank you cards. You should thank the guests for attending and for any gifts you have received.