

Foolproof Wedding Shower Invitations

Some girlfriends and I had the privilege of throwing a good friend a wedding shower last month. To be original, we decided to make our own wedding shower invitations. We considered ourselves pretty creative people. After all, we were the women who wielded a mean glittery paint pen to decorate acrylic glasses for fraternity exchange party favors. So, off we went to make our own smashingly dazzling wedding shower invitations. Given our experience, I thought it would be helpful to put together a list of tips for those of you embarking on the same journey.

Make sure the bride is okay with giving you full creative license with the wedding shower invitations and the shower. That does not entail spoiling the secret or giving away all the details. Some prospective brides have been thinking about their wedding day all their lives and also have a set vision of what the shower should look like. I personally feel that brides like that should have to throw their own showers. You can move onto the design phase if you already know the bride is cool with you doing whatever you want.

I am not going to go into detail about what kind of wedding shower invitations you can create, because the possibilities are limitless. If you have a special theme for the shower, your invitations will probably tie into that. If a more traditional shower is planned, then just make wedding shower invitations that are fun, groovy, gorgeous or memorable (or all four).

What I have to say next can make or break the shower, so pay attention. The meat of your wedding shower invitations, the information inside that tells people what to do and where to go, should be proofread many times. I like to have a person who has not been knee deep in the invitation making factory take a look at it. Many of the old school guidelines advise you to use proper English (as in, British English with their "favours") on your invitation. I do not think that is totally necessary, unless you are inviting the Queen. Just make sure your spelling and grammar are correct. It is essential that the invitation recipients have the right date and time for the soiree. Check that the name of the location is spelled correctly and that the address is accurate. Attach some directions if you know the address is confusing or does not make sense when you mapquest it. Be clear on the invitation that guests should RSVP with a yes or no. Some people assume you do not need to RSVP if you are not going to attend. Conversely, there are plenty of people that assume you know they are coming unless they tell you no. This makes planning difficult. No matter what you do, you will have a couple guests that forgot to RSVP and come anyway or those who do not show up after RSVPing. But, by making it explicit on the wedding shower invitations, you increase your odds of a good headcount tremendously. Having a clear RSVP statement, however, will give you a better chance with planning. Most people assume "shower" means only women, so if men are invited, be sure to be clear about that on the invitation somewhere too. The last thing is to provide some guidelines for the attendees on dress and gifts, if the shower has a theme. "Come dressed as your favorite rock star from the 80s and bring a bottle of wine to stock the cellar."

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