Wedding stationery timeline

You're engaged (and you've set the date) – congrats!
There's so much *to plan*, so much *to do* and *so little time.* When it comes to *wedding invitations and stationery*, Paper Trails can be your ultimate personal expert resource. Call or email us anytime if you've got questions along the way!

- ☐ *Select your bridal party (duh!).* Ask them in style with a "Will you be my bridesmaid?" card!
- ☐ *Compile your guest list.* Get a ballpark figure of the number of invites you'll need
- ☐ *Set your budget for invitations.* The average price is $5-10 per set (100 invites = $500-$1000).
- ☐ *Start researching invitation styles* that catch your eye. Keep an idea file of your favorites.

12 months to go! (procrastinators = 4 mos.)

- ☐ *Destination wedding?* Select, order and send your save-the-dates.

9 months to go! (procrastinators = 4 mos.)

- ☐ *Think about potential invitation wording.* It's a good idea to review it with family members.
- ☐ *Think about how many enclosures you'll need.* (Will you need an accommodation card? A reception card? A map/direction card? What about a combination of some sort?)

7-8 months to go! (procrastinators = 4 mos.)

- ☐ *Schedule an appointment with Paper Trails* to chat about your invitations and stationery.
- ☐ *Local wedding? (especially with lots of out-of-towners)* Select and order your save-the-dates.

6 months to go! (procrastinators = 4 mos.)

- ☐ *Local wedding?* Send your save-the-dates.
- ☐ *Share your invitation theme and style with your bridal party (as if you haven't already!).* Gab with your gals about the super cute bridal shower and bachelorette party invites at Paper Trails!

5 months to go! (procrastinators = 3 mos.)

- ☐ *Finalize your guest list.* Note A and B listers, and get complete names and addresses. Don't forget to include names of significant others and children (if you're inviting them).
- ☐ *Make final decisions on your invitation style, wording, response date and enclosure cards.*
- ☐ *Place your order for invitations (yay!)*
- ☐ *Using a calligrapher?* Book them to address your envelopes and place cards.

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4 months to go! (procrastinators = 3 mos.)

- ☐ *Review your proof.* Make all the changes you need, and approve it when it's perfect.
- ☐ *Pick up your invitations and envelopes.*

3 months to go! (procrastinators = 2 mos.)

- ☐ *Determine the exact postage required for your invitation and buy stamps.* Paper Trails can help by weighing your fully assembled invitation.
- ☐ *Set up a system for keeping track of replies.* One trick is to give all guests a number and write it lightly on the back of the response card. (You can reference it in case a guest forgets to write their name on the response card.)
- ☐ *Assemble invitations, stuff and stamp envelopes.* Have a "stuffing" party and ask everyone to help – but no food or drinks near the invites!
- ☐ *Addressing your invitations by hand?* Start now.
- ☐ *Destination wedding?* Mail your invitations!

2 months to go!

- ☐ *Local wedding?* Mail your invitations!
- ☐ *Order your new stationery and thank you notes.*
- ☐ *Sending announcements?* Order them now.
- ☐ *Start receiving your reply cards.* Use them to start compiling your list of place card names.
- ☐ *Order all of your paper accessories.* Don't forget about personalized napkins, table cards, place cards, menu cards and ceremony programs.

1 month to go!

- ☐ *Based on the response from your A-listers,* send out your B-list invitations.
- ☐ *Rehearsal dinner and post-wedding brunch invites are mailed.* You might not be in charge of these, but we thought you'd like to know!

2 weeks to go!

- ☐ *Contact guests who haven't replied.*
- ☐ *Finalize your place card list.* Create your table cards and place cards (or have Paper Trails do it).

The big day!

- ☐ *Smile with pride* at the beautiful papers that you hand selected to flatter your wedding!

1-2 Months later...

- ☐ *Sending announcements?* Send them ASAP.
- ☐ *You've got two months* to send a written note of thanks for the wedding gifts you received.

One year later...

- ☐ *Has it been a year?* The first anniversary gift is paper! Check out what's new at Paper Trails. ☺

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