

Using Your Head When Making Wedding Shower Invitations

My best friend and I recently threw a wedding shower for a college friend. We thought it would be fun and different to create the wedding shower invitations from scratch. We always prided ourselves on past artistic endeavors. After all, we were the women who wielded a mean glittery paint pen to decorate acrylic glasses for fraternity exchange party favors. We took that confidence and started off on our adventure to make the perfect 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. I do not mean that you have to spill the beans on your idea and ruin the surprise. 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 probably know your bride well enough, so this may not be an issue and you can check this box and carry on.

I am not going to go into detail about what kind of wedding shower invitations you can create, because the possibilities are limitless. They should probably relate to your theme in some way, but do not have to. If there is no theme for the party, then just make those wedding shower invitations to be different, beautiful or entertaining.

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. Assure that you have the correct date, time and year on your invitations. Verify the location name and the address. If the address is confusing, include directions. Be clear on the invitation that guests should RSVP with a yes or no. There are always guests who will attend without replying, and those will not attend but never tell you. Such ambiguities can wreak havoc on your food, drink and activities preparation. 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. If it is a coed party, make sure there is something in the invitation about that too. The last thing is to provide some guidelines for the attendees on dress and gifts, if the shower has a theme. "Wear your best and brightest Hawaiian garb."

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