



Wedding Etiquette

Traditional Breakdown of Costs

There are no set rules when it comes to paying for a wedding. In fact, many couples pay for their own wedding these days. Another common method of paying for a wedding involves dividing the cost three ways where the bride's parents, the groom's parents and the couple each pay for one-third of the cost. However, traditional guidelines suggest the following as a division of expenses.

Bride's Family

- Wedding invitations, announcements and postage
- Ceremony costs – location, music, rentals, professional services and other related expenses
- Bridesmaids' bouquets
- Reception cost – food, beverage, rental items, decorations, cake, entertainment, etc.
- Flowers for the ceremony and reception
- Bride's wedding dress and accessories
- Personal wedding attire
- Transportation for the bridal party to the ceremony site and reception
- Bridesmaid's luncheon
- Wedding gift for the couple
- Wedding photos and video (Groom's family pays for the photos they want.)
- Insurance for the wedding and gifts

Groom's Family

- Rehearsal dinner party
- Personal wedding attire
- Wedding gift for the bride and groom
- Stationery
- Optional: Accommodations for groom's out-of-town guests.



Guest Etiquette

- Guests are responsible for their own accommodations. The bride and groom's families are not responsible for their guests' rooms no matter how far they travel. Most of the time, the couple will reserve a block of hotel rooms at a discounted rate for out-of-town guests.
- Guests may only bring a guest if the invitation says "and guest."
- Find out if the wedding is black tie, black tie suggested, black tie optional, formal, beach formal, semi-formal, casual or shoes optional, and dress appropriately.
- It's proper to send a gift, even if you cannot attend. It's easier on the bride and groom if you send a gift, rather than bringing one to the wedding.



Groom

- Bride's rings and wedding gift
- Gifts for groomsmen and ushers
- Wedding attire
- Bride's bouquet
- Corsages for both mothers and grandmothers
- Bride's going away corsage
- Boutonnieres for the groom's party
- Marriage license
- Clergyman's fee
- Honeymoon expenses

Bride

- Groom's wedding gift
- Groom's wedding ring
- Stationery
- Gifts for bridal party
- Optional: Cost of bridal attendants gowns and accommodations for out-of-town attendants.

Wedding Party

- Travel expenses
- Wedding attire, (Girls: shoes, hair and makeup)
- Bridal or couple showers
- Bachelor and bachelorette parties



Save the Date

You'll want to have your invitations to people six to eight weeks before the event. Save the date cards are a good idea if you are having a destination wedding or if most of your guests will be visiting from out of town. Have your guests RSVP by three weeks prior to the wedding date.