

# Invitations & Signage

SAVING YOUR SANITY, ONE LIST AT A TIME

ARABELLE  
ROMAN  
812 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN  
53203

ARABELLE  
ROMAN  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024  
SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING  
BRADLEY SYMPHONY CENTER | MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

STYLING

PREMIER  
BRIDE®

RHONDA ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Wedding Invite Timeline

These are not hard and fast rules (except for the thank you cards!), but they serve as a starting point.

## SAVE-THE-DATES

8-12 Months for Destination Weddings

6-8 Months for Local Weddings

Save-the-dates give your guests a friendly heads-up. They are not always necessary, but are never a bad idea. Your guests may decide to turn your destination wedding into a getaway trip, so those save-the-dates can be sent up to a year in advance.

## INVITATIONS

3-4 Months for Destination Weddings

4-8 Weeks for Local Weddings

There is such a thing as too early! Send invitations so that your guests' maximum anticipation lines up with your big day. Invitations for destination weddings should be sent far enough in advance for your guests to make their travel plans.

## RSVP DEADLINE

3-5 Weeks for Destination Weddings

2-3 Weeks for Local Weddings

Your RSVP Deadline will depend on how much lead time your wedding professionals need. The first one to consider is your caterer's meal count. Check with each vendor to determine when they need a final number, and set the RSVP return date for a week before that.

## THANK YOUS

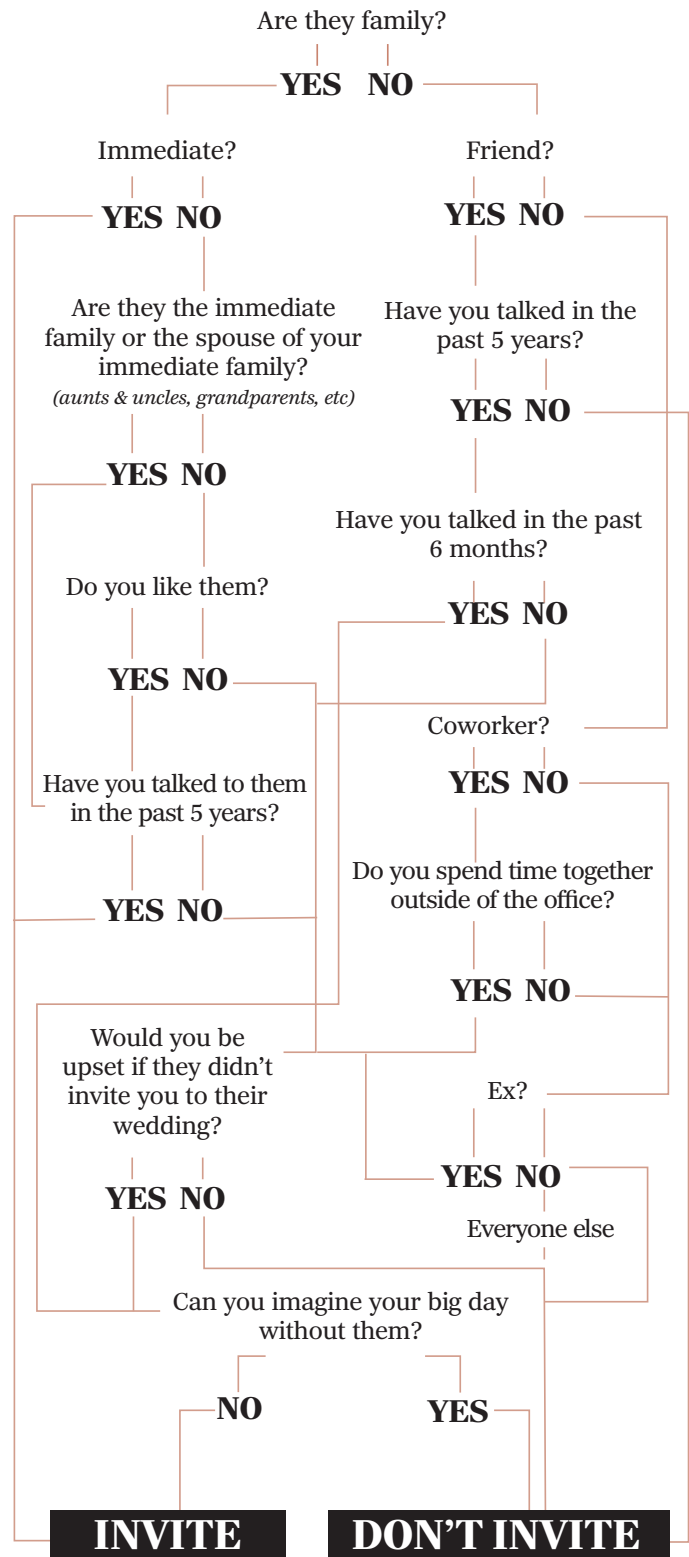
Immediately for both Local and Destination Weddings

Believe it or not, you'll start receiving gifts even before you walk down the aisle. Send thank you cards immediately. Once you're back from your honeymoon, kick it into high gear to get them out no later than six weeks after the wedding.

# NARROWING YOUR GUEST LIST IN 30 SECONDS

*or less!*

Not sure who to invite? Use this quick guide to help you in that process!





# CREATING A FLAT LAY

wedding invitations and more!

Pack a small “flat lay kit” to help your photographer capture all the dreamy details.

## Things to include:

- SAVE-THE-DATE
- INVITATION SUITE
- PERFUME/COLOGNE
- WEDDING RINGS
- SHOES
- ACCESSORIES
- JEWELRY
- VOW BOOKS
- ACCENT FLOWERS
- RIBBON
- MAKEUP/LIPSTICK
- JEWELRY BOX
- TRAY
- PERSONAL MOMENTOS
- BOW TIES / TIES

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# Custom Signage

Custom signs add an artistic flourish, a photo op, and the chance to relay messages to guests in a creative fashion. Going DIY saves you money, but working with a professional saves you time and often results in a piece of art you can display in your home.



## CHALKBOARD

Chalkboards are perfect for weddings with a rustic vibe, and chalk markers are a game changer for creating gorgeous boards. These markers are designed to write easily and look bright and bold on all kinds of surfaces, not just chalkboards. Seek out hand-lettering artists near you for a flawless, professional piece of word art.

Want to try your own hand at hand-lettering? Make sure the surface is clean before you start writing. To erase, use a clean, damp cloth. If using chalk markers, remember that the ink takes a moment to dry completely, so be careful not to smudge wet ink.

## HAND-PAINTED

Paint looks great on antique glass window panes, elegant mirrors, or earthy wood boards. Going for the traditional paint-on-canvas look is also lovely, as a hand-painted fabric banner is both boho and beautiful. Try a small "Just Married!" sign to hold between you for a photo op after the "I Do's," or have a larger sign painted to adorn the head table with a favorite romantic quote.

## FELT BOARDS & LIGHT-UP LETTERING

Felt boards with plastic lettering, marquee lights, and light boxes like you'd see at a movie theater, these are all on trend nowadays. A felt board typically has a black backdrop with white uppercase lettering. Smaller boards are perfect for capturing little phrases for a photo op, while larger boards might relay the menu or a longer quote about love and marriage.

With light-up signs, that glorious glow is an added bonus indeed, bringing an extra eye-catching and memorable element to the décor. Marquee lights are best and more affordable when used for shorter phrases. A light box can hold a message with more characters.

## WAYS TO USE WEDDING SIGNAGE

Signs can welcome guests to the event, invite people to "pick a seat not a side," communicate the wedding hashtag, or ask folks to kindly refrain from photography during the ceremony. Use signs for wayfinding, pointing to the direction of cocktail hour, dinner, and photo booth. Signs on the bar can highlight signature cocktails. A large sign can list table assignments for dinner, a time and money saving alternative to placecards.