

GUEST LIST CALCULATOR

For most, the size of the guest list comes down to what you can afford. To figure out this magic number, try this handy equation:

$$\frac{\text{Total Budget} - \text{Fixed Costs}}{\text{Cost-per-Head Estimate}} = \text{Guests You Can Realistically Invite}$$

1. Write down your total projected budget.
2. Add up your fixed costs (i.e., that which won't change with the number of guests): location rental, music, photography, videography, wedding gown, officiant fees.

3. Tally up costs that will fluctuate with the number of guests—food, alcohol, centerpieces, rentals, invitations—and come up with a cost-per-head estimate.

4. Subtract your fixed costs from your total budget and see what's left.

5. Divide that figure by the cost per head. Voilà! This is how many guests you can afford to invite.



THE GUEST LIST

Start by pulling out the laptop and writing out your ideal guest list. Have your fiancé and both sets of parents do the same. Then, merge all the names into one document, delete duplicates, and start narrowing down the list. If there's someone you are both on the fence about, try this visualization exercise: Picture you both, a year from now, strolling down the street arm in arm (swiv). You run into the person that you didn't invite. Do you feel run-and-hide awful? Mildly regretful? Or just fine and dandy? If it's the first reaction, keep them on the list; if it's the latter two, cut them from the list.

Remember, not everyone you invite will be able to attend. Ten percent is a fairly reliable estimate for regrets: If it is a destination wedding, or if more than half of your invitees live far enough away that they need to book a flight, you can estimate that about 20 percent will send their regrets.

Keeping track of your guest list is crucial for staying on budget (and staying sane). After you have a final count, use this form to record the guest names, addresses, RSVP, and gifts sent. (You'll probably need to make photocopies of these pages to cover your entire guest list.)

Name: _____ RSVP: Attending Regrets

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Shower gift: _____ Thank-you note sent

Wedding gift: _____ Thank-you note sent

The Guest List, continued

Name: _____ RSVP: Attending Regrets

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Shower gift: _____ Thank-you note sent

Wedding gift: _____ Thank-you note sent

Name: _____ RSVP: Attending Regrets

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Shower gift: _____ Thank-you note sent

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