

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Planning an Engagement Party and / or Bridal Shower Organizing Tips for hosts and hostesses of

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions.....

To be made by the host(s)

- Decide whether the party is just for the bride or for both bride and groom.
- Decide where the party will take place: home, outdoors, restaurant etc...
- Decide when the party will take place: late morning, afternoon, evening...
- Decide upon the menu: snacks, buffet, sit down lunch, dinner, sweets table etc.
- Decide whether the food will be catered, prepared by you or pot luck.
- Decide whether or not this is going to be a surprise party.

Next

- Contact the bride's and or groom's family to obtain a list of people who should be invited.
- Send out invitations.
- Prepare a menu.
- Prepare a shopping list to include food, flowers, materials needed, prizes and decorations.
- Create a guest information sheet that include Mailed invitation, RSVP (Yes/No), remarks.
- Plan all activities and games and prepare materials needed.
- Contact guests from far away who will not be able to attend.
- Arrange for them to phone and congratulate the bride (and groom) while they are at the party.
- Set a special place for gift opening.
- Prepare a pretty basket for the wrapping papers and ribbons.
- Before planning the decoration aspect be sure to find out the bride and groom's favorite
 - Colors
 - Flowers
 - Story book or other favorite characters, etc...
 - If they plan a Theme Wedding.

Have fun!

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The Engagement Party

Traditionally the parents of the bride hosted an engagement party for their daughter and her fiancé. Today it is quite common for both sets of parents to host separate engagement parties. Also, quite frequently brides and grooms host their own engagement announcement parties. The party can take on any style. It can be a special formal dinner, a catered buffet, an in home finger food and salad reception, a barbeque, cocktail party and even a pot luck.

Printed invitations are optional but you should consider sending them to out of town guests. Invitations are required if the party will be a formal event.

The Engagement Party Form

The Engagement Party Site

Name of the Location: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ email: _____ Web Site: _____

Contact Person(s): _____ Emergency phone: _____

Type of Party: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Hosted by: _____

Expected number of guests: _____

MENU:

MAP:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Our Engagement Party

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Hosted By: _____

Theme: _____

Other Important Details: _____

Moments to Remember: _____

Guest(s)	Gift(s)	Sent Thank You on

Number of guests: _____ Cost per guest: \$ _____ Decorations: \$ _____ Total cost: \$ _____

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Our Engagement
Invitation and pictures page

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Bridal Shower Facts and History

Legend has it, the first bridal shower was held in Holland. The bride-to-be was rather well off, while her fiancé, a local miller, was not. Her father forbade the wedding and cut off her dowry. The couple married anyway and endured tough times financially. To help them out, many of the townspeople had a party for them and bestowed upon them many useful household items.

Today's Bridal Shower

Today's bridal shower is a little less about showering the Happy Couple with useful items, and more about celebration, tradition, and, yes, gifts. While most showers are a surprise for the bride-to-be, this isn't always the case anymore. Plenty of times the bride helps to plan her own shower. Another twist is to have a co-ed, 'wedding' shower, and invite guests of both the future bride and groom. More about this later..

Who Throws a Bridal Shower?

Traditionally the bridal party throws the bridal shower. The maid of honor and other bridesmaids meet to set a date, decide on a theme and coordinate shopping and decorating for the event.

It used to be considered poor etiquette for the mother of the bride to throw the bridal shower as it was seen as a plea for gifts. Times have changed, however and it's fine for the bride's mom to host a shower if she's so inclined.

Today's 'Wedding' Shower

As we entered the 21st century, it has become quite common to include the groom as well as the bride and shower both of them with gifts. For some reason, what is now called "a wedding shower" or simply a 'shower, is a rather somber event where guests don't play games but 'mingle.'

Most often the maid of honor together with the best man throw the party. However, it is not unusual for parents* or siblings to do so.

'Wedding' shower guests either bring gifts for both bride and groom or contribute money toward their honeymoon.

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***Parents usually celebrate their children's upcoming wedding with Engagement Parties.**

More about the Bridal Shower

The Bridal Shower is an informal party for the bride where all the guests are women. It is usually scheduled a few months to a few weeks before the wedding. Traditionally it was hosted by the maid of honor. Today however, more and more bridal showers are hosted by the bride's attendants as a group.

Bridal showers, as the name implies, are intended to shower the bride with gifts. They have a few of the same characteristics but actually, rather than uniformity, each is personalized. Showers have expanded to reflect the personal style of the bride.

The event planner(s) choose the location, the décor, the flowers, the favors and even the menu the bride would have chosen if she was in charge. Though the bride will attend as a guest, rather than giving her a surprise party, she should be consulted about the theme but most importantly about the guest list. She should be able to choose the size of the guest list, because every woman who is invited to the shower is expected to be invited to the wedding too. Since a shower has very loose traditions, it is quite appropriate to ask the bride if children and - or men may attend.

The most appreciated gifts are accessories for the wedding, entertaining, kitchen and household goods. One of the most fun parts of the shower is when the gifts are opened and the bride, groom or both react. Their reaction in their exact words should be written down to be read later, for all the guests to hear. So, ask one of your attendants to jot down the reaction to each gift opened. It is important to appoint someone to record who gave what. This will help with the Thank You notes.

The Groom Shower

21st century grooms want to plan the wedding with their brides and celebrate their upcoming wedding with a Groom Shower just for the guys. Thus, a new trend has been created and is becoming more and more popular but not quite as popular as the Wedding Shower, or by its other name Couple Shower.

The realization is that men need showers too. The most appreciated gifts are tools for the household they will be maintaining, sports equipment and of course electronics. One of the most fun parts of the shower is when the gifts are opened and the reaction written down. So, ask one of your attendants to jot down your reaction to each gift opened. It is important to appoint someone to record who gave what. This will help with the Thank You notes.

The Wedding Shower

Traditionally it was called a bridal shower. Today, more and more often it is called a 'Wedding Shower' or a 'Couple Shower'. Well, the name **shower** says it all. This event has a purpose. Showering the bride and groom with gifts!

Like many aspects of the wedding scene the traditional shower for the bride has become a shower for both bride and groom. Unlike the bridal shower that was hosted by the maid of honor and centered on the bride, the wedding shower is usually hosted by siblings of the couple and - or their wedding attendants a few months to a few weeks before the wedding. The majority of showers are the results of group efforts, especially theme showers.

Years ago, the bridal shower was a surprise party. Today bride and groom are consulted. In fact, as the idea behind the shower is to have family and friends gather to shower the couple with gifts. The most common and highly appreciated, are gifts they may need or can use at the wedding such as guest books and pens, ring bearer pillows, flower baskets, bridal purses, garters, flutes, cake serving sets, unity candles, albums etc... The second most common are money gifts, followed by items for the couple's new home.

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The Shower Party Form

The Engagement Party Site

Location: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Web Site: _____

Contact Person(s): _____ Emergency phone: _____

Type of Party: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Hosted by: _____

Expected number of guests: _____

MENU:

MAP:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

The Shower

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Hosted By: _____

Theme: _____

Other Important Details: _____

Moments to Remember: _____

Guest(s)	Gift(s)	Sent Thank You on

Number of guests: _____ Cost per guest: \$ _____ Decorations: \$ _____ Total cost: \$ _____

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Our Save the Date Announcement