

## **Do You Need Invitations for the Rehearsal Dinner?**

When it comes to rehearsal dinners, the simplest approach is to be practical. It is perfectly acceptable for the bride and groom to invite their wedding party and immediate family by word of mouth, following whatever instructions you, the hosts, give them. It is also perfectly acceptable to send written invitations. The larger and more formal the rehearsal dinner, the more likely those formal invitations should be sent.

If the bride is in close touch with her extended family and is fairly well organized, it may be simplest for her to call her guests, invite them, and ascertain whether they will come. The groom then does the same with his attendants, and his relatives. Often out-of-town guests are also invited to rehearsal dinner.

If this approach makes you nervous, go ahead and send written invitations. Make sure the invitations include clear instructions on how to RSVP, as well as the "due date." Issue the invitations in the host's name. If the groom's parents are paying for the dinner the invitation would be sent from them. Feel free to offer them some help in selection of the invitations and getting them mailed.

Match the formality of the invitation to the formality of the party. For a very formal party, you can order formal invitations from the same catalogs or companies that stock wedding invitations. For the more casual rehearsal dinner, you can very simply write a personal note on your own stationery or on attractive note cards to invite your guests