

LIVINGSPACE

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p8



Make the cut

Events specialist Aleit gives a few tips on how to compile your guest list – and prevent your wedding of 80 people ballooning to 150

Not every couple wants an enormous celebration – nor can they afford one. If your options are either to cut back on numbers or have a big wedding but on a restricted budget, ask yourself this: 'Do I want to give up my idea of the perfect wedding to accommodate more guests, or do I have that dream day but with fewer people?'

If your guest list includes people who you or your parents feel obligated to invite but whose presence you know won't add anything to your big day, take them off the list. It's not easy, but there are ways to approach this subtly.

- Have a destination wedding. People you would feel obligated to invite to a wedding in your home city probably wouldn't manage a trip abroad and most would understand that destination weddings are a smaller affair.
- Set strict guidelines. Depending on the size of your family, you may draw the line at siblings and first cousins. But avoid inviting someone just because of a family connection – if you haven't seen him or her in the past five years, why would you want them at your wedding?
- Should you find yourself in a tricky situation at work where you have to invite everyone at the office or you'll feel guilty, simplify things by excluding them all.
- It's acceptable not to include children at weddings. (If the parents are travelling from out-of-town though, have a list of babysitters available.) On the invitation you can simply state 'Due to limitations, we are unable to have the pleasure of your children's company at our wedding'.
- Avoid the 'bring a partner' scenario. While it's expected that you invite married people as a couple as well as unmarried couples who are living together or have been in a relationship for a long time, it's perfectly acceptable to invite single guests without



- Have two lists. The A-list is for everyone who must be sent an invitation (having followed the given guidelines) and the B-list is for the people you would like to invite but are not sure you'll have room for. Once you have a clearer idea of your A-list attendance, you can select guests from your B-list. Remember, take the time to examine your priorities and then set the rules. This will ensure your wedding will be spent only with those who are nearest and dearest to you. ■

About Aleit

The team at the Aleit Group are wedding and events specialists in South Africa. Industry trendsetters, they create bespoke events that are an extension of