

# postage pointers

## EVERY BRIDE NEEDS TO KNOW

### POSTCARD *Stamps & Mailing*

- Postcards must be rectangular to qualify for a postcard stamp.
- Postcards have size requirements:  
Minimum Size: 3.5 x 5"  
Maximum Size: 4.25 x 6"
- If your postcard does not meet these requirements and you use a postcard stamp the post office will only deliver them if the remaining balance is paid (left in mailbox).
- Postcard stamps do NOT work on small envelopes. All envelopes need a regular stamp.
- The postcard stamp is only produced in ONE STYLE per year.
- 2017's postcard stamp style, a set of shells. It's the only postcard stamp you can get for the entire year.
- Using the postcard stamp will save you approximately \$15 per every 100 invitations.
- Postcards can sometimes get a little beat up in the mail since they aren't protected by an envelope.

*This information was gathered through personal experience and is not in any way endorsed by the US Postal Service. Details included are subject to change at any time. For more information please contact the US Postal Service directly with questions.*

### STAMP PRICES

*Prices as of 9/1/18*

- **Forever Stamp:** \$.50 each  
Any rectangular envelope  
Up to 1oz in weight  
Many choices (*Love pictured on back*)
- **Non Machinable Stamp:** \$.71 each  
All square envelopes  
Up to 1oz in weight  
"Nonuniform" thickness (*Ribbons*)  
Some choices (*Butterfly pictured on back*)
- **Postcard Stamp:** \$.35 each  
Size requirements  
No envelopes  
1 option per year  
(*Coastal bird pictured on right*)



### SQUARE *Stamps*

- Square envelopes cost more in postage because they do not run through the postal machines and all have to be processed by hand.
- Square envelopes require a "Non-Machinable Stamp" which currently cost \$.71 each. (*9/1/18*)

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### TIPS & ADVICE *for postage*

- Be extremely careful ordering unique or personalized stamps online - they could be counterfeit and cause lots of headache and extra cost. (This happened to my bride)
- Order extra invitations AND envelopes, it's inevitable that some of your invitations will end up back in your mailbox. Commonly because of incorrect addresses, guests will move without letting you know, among other things. You'll need to replace the envelope when sending it back out to the new correct address.
- Budget for postage. The average bride needs 3-4 sets of stamps before the wedding is over.  
**Wedding stationery needing stamps:**  
Save the dates  
Invitation  
RSVP  
Rehearsal, Bridal Shower, Bachelorette Shower Thank You Cards  
Wedding Thank You Cards
- Pocketfold invitations tend to add an extra ounce of weight and typically require a non-machinable stamp (2oz).

### POSTAGE *Stamps & Mailing*

- Prepare 1 invitation exactly as it will be mailed and take it to the post office to be weighed. This will help you determine how much postage will cost per invite!
- Each stamp will cover the cost of a 1oz envelope. If your envelopes is over 1oz you'll need additional or larger stamps.
- Ask the post office if your invitations can be hand processed instead of machine processed. This way they are less likely to get damaged, no guarantees though.
- If you have a ribbon or something inside the envelope that causes it to have "nonuniform thickness" it is likely you'll need a more expensive stamp.

