

Please Read Before Mailing Your Invitations

We recommend hand canceling your wedding invitations at the Post Office.

What is hand canceling? "Canceling" in postal service jargon is the little marking that goes over the stamps on envelopes and is used to prevent people from re-using stamps. Nowadays, the canceling happens through a machine, and for your gorgeous wedding invitations, there's a chance that your envelopes can get bent or even ripped when it makes its way through the machine. Also, thicker invitations may struggle going through the machine and could leave marks in your invitations. Also, if you choose to seal your invitations with wax, most likely, they won't be able to go through the machine—and you definitely don't want them to even if they could.

Because of this, we recommend that you hand cancel your wedding invitations when you are ready to send them out. This means that a postal worker will stamp the envelopes by hand, in an effort to ensure your envelopes or invitations are not damaged.

How do you get your wedding invitations hand canceled?

Typically, if you visit your local post office during non-busy hours (avoid lunch times and when they're just about to open or close) and are friendly and polite, most post offices & their employees will happily stamp your invites at no charge. There's a chance that you may be charged, but from what we've heard, that only happens if you go when it's super busy or happen to get a grumpy employee (or both!). Most likely, though, it's a free service that just takes a little bit of extra time. Some post offices may even let you stamp them yourself.

Tip: Call up or visit the post office before bringing in your invites, as not every location does hand canceling. Don't wait until the last minute!

Should you get your wedding invitations hand canceled?

Most of the designs from Second City Stationery are more intricate and have specialty, boutique elements to them and we usually recommend hand canceling any of our invitation designs. If we created a custom design for you that is a little more standard with no layers, belly bands, or special features, you should be okay to drop them in the mail. However, if you have the extra time and aren't in a rush, we recommend hand canceling them anyways. The less machinery that touches your beautiful invitations, the better! If you have questions about whether or not you should hand cancel your invitations, please feel free to send Savannah an email at savannah@secondcitystationery.com.