

A decorative background featuring a bouquet of pink and purple peonies on the right, a lit white candle in a glass holder on the left, and a white ceramic basket at the bottom. The central text is enclosed in a double-lined purple border.

MITZVAHMARKET.COM

Mitzvah Market

DIGITAL GUIDE



Invitations

Tips On Invites, RSVPs,
Stamps & More

*Questions To Ask Before
Ordering Invitations*

When To Send Invites With
Deadlines For Each Season

*Invite
Success:*
The 411
On
Invitations

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Credit: A Touch of Class Parties



Credit: Cutie Patootie Creations

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[PUBLISHER'S LETTER]

Credit: [Invitations With Love](#)



Every Bar Bat Mitzvah celebration starts with paper – unless you're going completely electronic. **The Bar Bat Mitzvah invitation sets the tone and gets people excited about your upcoming event.**

Since this invite will be on fridges or bulletin boards for months,

you'll want it to reflect your party brand in some way. You could go subtle – just using the colors and fonts that you will be displaying at your event, or bold – including the event's logo, theme or tagline.

This is your family's choice depending on how formal you'd like your invitations to be. We hope our ***Mitzvah Market Planning Guide: Invitations*** gives you all the info you need to get started on this part of your planning!

Sheri Lapidus
Founder, [MitzvahMarket.com](#)

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Tips

on Invites, RSVPs, Stamps & More



Credit: [Melissa Trachtman Designs](https://www.melissatrachtdesigns.com)

Create your guest list.

One of the hardest parts of planning a Bar or Bat Mitzvah can be “the list;” who gets an invitation and who gets cut. Of course, family and close friends are on the list, but what about their kids? Do you include the girl your nephew is dating even though it’s not serious? Your second cousin you’re very close to, but her sister you never see?

Decide how many people you can afford to invite and hope that those who don’t make the cut will understand.

Once you whittle down your list **you can have some backups to invite** if a lot of “nos” quickly come in. And remember, a few more people won’t break you, but could break up a lifelong friendship or cause family strife.

Send out save the date cards.

Ideally, these should go out 8-10 months before your celebration. This is especially important if you have lots of out-of-town guests and/or your event is over a holiday weekend so people can plan ahead. **Make sure there’s a place to include details** about hotels if you booked a block of rooms at a group rate.



Credit: [Basic Invite](#)

Create a Website.

Having one central place where you can post all the details of your event is helpful to guests, especially if it's a whole weekend affair. Here you can post information on the child's Mitzvah Project, directions, suggested dress, etc. List the URL on the invitation.

Number your RSVP cards.

If you decide on paper response cards, **discreetly pencil in a number on the back of each card and keep a cross-reference list.** This helps avoid an RSVP that arrives with the checked off box "happy to attend" but no name on it!

Choose an RSVP date.

Make sure you pick a date early enough to allow time to order any customized favors for your confirmed guests.

MITZVAH MARKET TIP

Instead of including a response card, use an email address for RSVPs; you'll save money on postage and help the environment by cutting down on wasted paper. Just make sure to call those few older relatives who are not internet savvy to see if they will attend.



Credit: [Out of the Box NY](#)

Keep a master list of everyone's email addresses.

This will come in handy if there are any last minute emergencies or change of plans. If you send out response cards, here's a good place to ask guests to include them.

Address your envelopes.

As an alternative to the expense of a calligrapher, consider using a computer program and/or

address the envelopes yourself. You can even hire a high school or college student or get an older child to help with this time consuming task. **Remember to get extra envelopes to do test prints.**

MITZVAH MARKET TIP

As a subscriber to www.MitzvahOrganizer.com, you can print out labels for your envelopes using different fonts.

Purchase stamps.

Check out the large assortment of what's available at the local Post Office. If your party has a basketball theme, see if there are any new stamps with sports figures. There are often new "celebrate" or "love" stamps as well. **If you see a forever stamp that works with your theme — even if it's way in advance — be sure to stock up!**



Credit:
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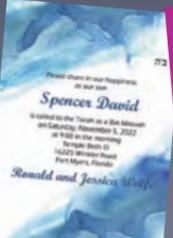
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Questions

*To Ask Before
Ordering Your Invitations*



Credit: [Sophie Taylor Ink](#)



Credit: [A Touch of Class Parties](#)



Credit: [Basic Invite](#)

There are many ways to complete this part of your “to-do” list. You can visit a stationery store, search online or order from an invitation specialist who will have books with hundreds of invitations to choose from.

Some party planners will also help you **customize an invitation that coordinates with your party theme**. Other families decide to design an invitation themselves, **finding wording and fonts online, even incorporating photographs or artwork done by an artistic child**.



Credit: [Out of the Box NY](#)



Credit: [Out of the Box NY](#)



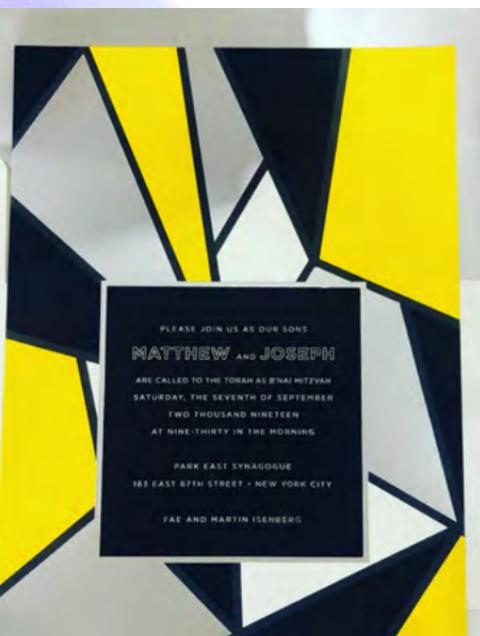
Credit: [Pretty in Paper](#)



Credit: [Pretty in Paper](#)

However you decide to accomplish this task, **here are some questions to ask first:**

- What is the **quality** (card stock) of the invitations I am receiving? If ordering online, is there a **quality guarantee**?



Credit: [Informally yours](#)

- Does your company do its own printing? This could effect delivery dates if you are in a rush.
- **How long will it take** until my order is printed?
- **What is included** with my order? Do I get envelopes? RSVP cards? Tissue inserts?



Credit: [A Touch of Class Parties](#)



Credit: [Cutie Patootie Creations](#)



Credit: [Jubilana](#)

- How many **extra envelopes** will I get in case I make mistakes printing addresses?
- Do I get a **sample or print-ready proof** of my card before I finalize the order?
- **How much postage** will it take for this invitation? (Remember square envelopes cost more!)
- How much will it cost if I order **extra invitations after the initial print run**? How long will that take?
- Do you offer calligraphy or **other printing services for the addresses**?

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When

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Invitations Should Be Mailed

Generally speaking, **invitations should be mailed 8 weeks before a Bar or Bat Mitzvah date.**

There are some exceptions to this rule based on the time of year you will be celebrating.

Season	Send Out	Response Card Date
Fall	Due to Summer vacations/camp, mail the 2nd or 3rd week in June	Mid-July. If party date isn't until mid/late October, RSVP date can be mid-August, September when friends come home from camp.
Winter	Mail 9-10 weeks in advance if date is close to a holiday	At least 1 month from party date so there's time to get the stragglers before you order favors
Spring	Mail 9-10 weeks in advance if date is close to a school vacation/graduation	At least 1 month from party date



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Invite Success:

The 411 On Invitations



Credit: [Jubilana](https://www.jubilana.com)

When you are **about 10 months away from your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah date**; you need to start thinking about the invitation. These decisions will **set the tone for your event** so make sure you select something that reflects your child, your traditions and your upcoming celebration. **Before you make any big decisions, learn the facts:**



Credit: [Melissa Trachtman Designs](#)

THE EXPERTS

Invitation Professionals:

These people really know the industry. Some offer completely custom designs, while others work from books. They will have samples that you can see and touch and some can offer a discount. Additionally, **they can guide you through the process, work within your budget and even help with wording for your invitation.**

Retail Store:

You will also have books to look through and can see product and the colors in person. However, most stores do not extend discounts.

Online:

The Web is a great place to see multiple possibilities but you might not get the hand holding and customer service that an invitation professional can give you. **If you decide to go with the online option, request a sample to make sure you know what you are getting.**

No matter what type of vendor you chose, you will most likely have questions during your process so make sure you pick someone who is available.



Credit: [Invitations With Love](http://InvitationsWithLove.com)

MATERIALS & PAPER

What weight invites are you looking for? You can go with a **heavy-weight paper** 220 lbs and up or a cardstock. You can also **consider laying papers or having a pocket layer to create a more substantial invitation.** If you're planning to print the invitation yourself, go with a lighter weight, like an 80 or a 110 stock, to make sure it goes through your printer smoothly.

In some cases, the type of paper may add to the cost of the invitation. You could pay a premium for a shimmer paper, rather than a flat color.



Credit: [Informally yours](#)



Credit: [Out of the Box NY](#)

If you like a **traditional look**, you might opt for **embossed or letterpressed type** that will require a soft paper like cotton in order to get that deep impression.

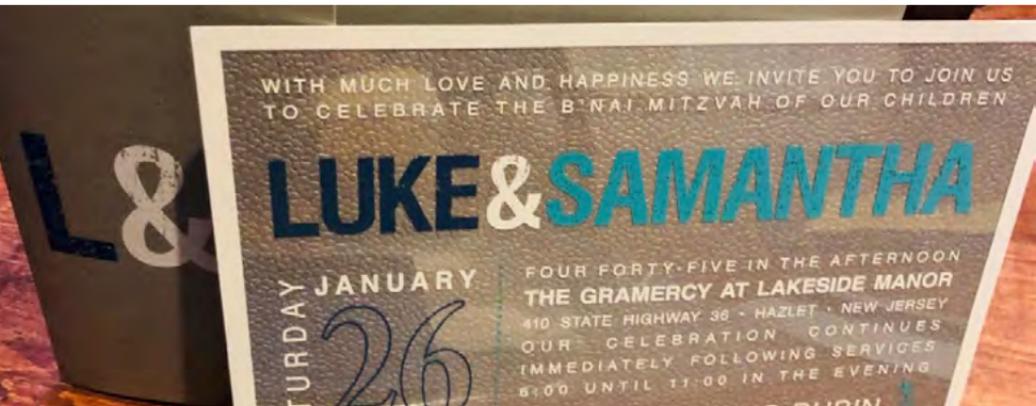
If you're looking for something a little more out-of-the box **consider a metallic paper or even printing on metal, wood, leather or even Lucite.**



Credit: [Jubilana](#)



Credit: [Sophie Taylor Ink](#)



Credit: [Melissa Trachtman Designs](#)

PRINTING TECHNIQUES

This choice will be dictated by your budget and personal style. Here are some choices:

Engraved Type:

This technique dates back to the 1700s. A custom plate is created and the letters are etched onto your paper, allowing the print to be raised. This is a **very formal option and can be very costly.**

Letterpress:

Using a moveable type machine, letterpress gives an indented impression. Bright colors can be used or even blind embossed type. Letterpress offers a classic look. It is **generally less costly than engraved type, but more than flat-printed.**



Credit: [Basic Invite](#)

Foil:

Foil can be used in a variety of ways. You may see it indented or raised. **Using foil will increase the price of your invitation.**

Thermography:

A raised-print type, but the type will have a shine to it. **It usually is a mid-priced option.**

Flat-printed:

This is the **most affordable type. It can be offset or digital.** Offset works best on textured paper, whereas digital looks great on smooth stocks.

Whatever you decide, involve your child in the process. You'll want your selection to be something that he or she will be proud to send to all of his or her friends.



Credit: [Invitations With Love](https://www.invitationswithlove.com)

Credit: [Invitations4Less.com](https://www.invitations4less.com)

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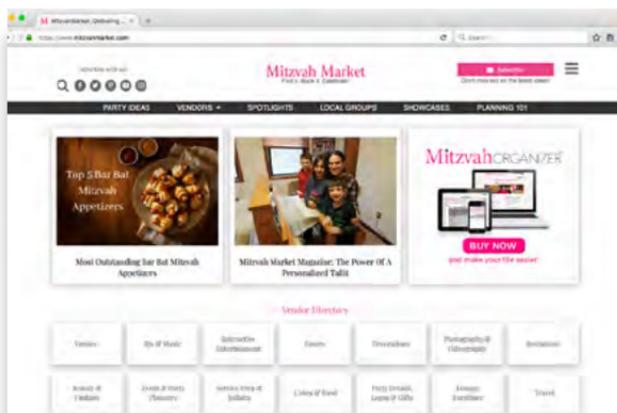


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