# Etiquette: Incorporating social media in Wedding Planning

It is undeniable that social media has permeated modern life and has even come to encompass the wedding planning process. Some couples go out of their way to share it all, while others prefer to keep it as a private affair.

The dos & don'ts should always be taken into consideration if the couple has opted to use social media. Altering the privacy settings is the first thing they should do, making sure that they are reviewed from time to time particularly during an upgrade of the system during which personal settings can be automatically changed without your awareness of it.

To maximize the benefits of using social media without compromising yourselves, I have put together 10 tips which could save you from any hassle or inconvenience that could result from the uncalculated publicity you expose wedding plans to.

**1)** Start by announcing your engagement "quietly" by changing your status on Facebook from "single" to "engaged."

**2)** After setting the wedding date, start establishing a connection with the wedding planners,suppliers and other potential collaborators by "liking" their facebook page as that will give you access to their albums and visuals giving you a better idea about the quality of their work. You might even benefit from special offers, discounts, exclusive insights and good deals.

**3)** Post or share the pages you "like" in order to provide the wedding organizers and suppliers with an insight into your tastes and reach out to your invited guests which could be helpful and resourceful; that is if you want them to be involved in the planning process of course.

Balsam Al Khalil

**4)** Create a group on Facebook for all the invited guests making sure that the group's activity is kept private as you may have Facebook friends who aren't invited and want to avoid any unnecessary misunderstanding or tension. Alternatively, you can create a blog to share the information you would like to share with the invitees.

**5)** Remember the concept of not going overboard with the "oversharing" and hence limit the number of wedding updates or announcements during the same day.

**6)** Although planning weddings could be stressful as you have to deal with lots of issues, always remember not to sound negative and never share your frustrations through the social media channels.

**7)** Even though the "save the date" message or email might have been sent out, emailing a wedding invitation or sending it through the social media outlets is considered to be inappropriate and impersonal, and therefore should be sent through the proper channels that is by posting it .

**8)** If you have your "wedding list" or "registry" in order and are enthusiastic to share it, it is considered inappropriate to do so through the social media channels. Instead, mention it later on in the invitation card itself or enclose a small card with the same regards.
You can still entertain questions or enquiries by inbox messaging rather than posting a message on your wall.

**9)** Always remember that not all the invited guests have social media accounts or even if they do, they don't check them frequently and therefore it is essential to pass on the necessary information through other channels such as emails.

**10)** Opting to involve social media means that you have to "accept" quick postings of photos, comments, videos while the ceremony is taking place or while the party is in full speed! Be attentive not to sound rude or behave in an odd way or even allow photos to be taken inappropriately.

Congratulations, you have made it! Just enjoy the whole experience and look forward to a bright future with your partner.

Text by Balsam Al Khalil