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Print-Perfect Guide: How to Print Your Digital Templates Like a Pro!

Make Your DIY invitations, signs, and game cards look professionally printed—right at home or at a print shop!

This guide will walk you through the best paper, printer settings, and where to get the best results.

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📌 Who This Guide is For:

- ✓ DIY hosts printing bridal & baby shower games, invitations, or signage
- ✓ Wedding or event planners looking for **high-quality print results**
- ✓ Anyone unsure about the **best paper & printing methods** for templates

🏠 How to Print at Home

🛒 Materials Needed:

- ✓ Home printer (**inkjet or laser**)
- ✓ **8.5x11" cardstock** (recommended **80-110 lb** for best quality)
- ✓ **Precut 5x7" cardstock** (optional)
- ✓ Paper trimmer or scissors (if using 8.5x11" sheets)

🖨️ Step-by-Step Home Printing Guide:

1 Choose the Right Paper

- For **invitations, games, and signs**, use **sturdy cardstock (80-110 lb)**.
- You can print on **8.5x11" sheets** and trim them OR use **precut 5x7" cardstock** for invitations.

2 Set Up Your Printer

- Open the file on your computer.
- Select the **highest print quality** option.
- **Set scaling to 100% (actual size)** to avoid resizing issues.

3 Printing on 8.5x11" Sheets

- If your design prints **two per page**, make sure it's set up that way.
- After printing, **trim using a paper cutter** for perfect 5x7" cards.

4 Printing on Precut 5x7" Cardstock

- Adjust your printer's **paper guides** to fit 5x7" paper.
- Make sure the **print settings match** your cardstock size.

5 Check Print Quality & Adjust if Needed

- Colors should be vibrant, and text should be **sharp & clear**.
- If the print is faded, adjust your **printer settings** (e.g., increase contrast or select "best print quality").

✓ **Recommended!!! Always test print before printing a large batch.**

Printing at a Print Shop (Online or Local)

Preparing Your Files:

✓ **File Format:** Save as **PDF** (best for formatting) or **JPG** (if printing precut 5x7" cards).

✓ **Bleed & Margins:**

- Add a **0.125" bleed** if you want the design to go to the edge.
- Keep text **0.25" away from the edge** to prevent cutting issues.

Where to Print?

◆ Online Print Shops:

- ***Prints of Love*** - Easy uploads & event-ready quality!
- ***FEDEX*** - Best for signs, invitations, and programs
- ***Staples*** - Great for game cards & programs
- ***Vistaprint*** - Perfect for invitations & signs

◆ Local Print Shops (FedEx, Staples, OfficeMax)

- Bring a **USB drive** or email your files to the store.
- Choose **matte or glossy cardstock** depending on your needs.
- Ask for a **sample print** before finalizing large orders.

Best Paper for Templates

| Type of Template | Recommended Paper | Finish |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Game Cards & Invitations | 80-110 lb cardstock | Matte (easy to write on) |
| Large Signs | Foam board, poster paper | Glossy (vibrant colors) |
| Table Numbers & Menus | Thick cardstock | Matte or glossy |
| Thank You Cards | 80-100 lb cardstock | Matte |

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Need help? [***Message me***](#) anytime on Etsy — Paper Passion Designs — I'm happy to assist! ❤️

xoxo, Julie Anne