EMD
DIGITAL TEMPLATES

THE SECRET GARDEN · DIY WEDDING WEBSITE

Publishing Guide

Put your website online with your own Netlify account

About 10 minutes · drag and drop · no GitHub or coding

Guide 4 of 4

Before you start

☐ You've downloaded your website from the Customizer (**Download my website › Create ZIP**).

☐ You've **unzipped** it. You have a folder with `index.html` directly inside it.

> Netlify's screens change from time to time. If a button has a slightly different name, look for the closest match. The steps stay the same.

Step 1 – Create a Netlify account

1. Go to **app.netlify.com/signup** and sign up with your email (or Google).
2. If you're asked about a plan, choose **Free**. No card is needed for the free plan.
3. Skip any questions about Git or frameworks. You won't need them.

Step 2 – Upload your website (drag and drop)

1. Open **Projects**. At the bottom you'll see "Drag and drop your project folder...". (You can also use **Add new project › Deploy manually**.)
2. Drag your **unzipped website folder** (the one containing `index.html`) onto that area. Drag the folder itself, not the files inside it.
3. Wait until it says **Published**, usually under a minute. Netlify gives your site an address like `random-name-123.netlify.app`.

Step 3 – Make it visible to guests

New Netlify projects may start as **Private** (only you can see them while logged in). When you're happy with your site:

1. Open the project. If it shows **Private**, click **Make public**.
2. Optional: give it a nicer address. Go to **Project configuration › General › Change project name**, for example `anna-and-ben`, which gives `anna-and-ben.netlify.app`.

Step 4 – Check that it's live

1. Open your address in a **private/incognito** window or on your phone (not logged in to Netlify).
2. Tap the envelope, check your names, date, photos and music, and try the menu.
3. Then set up RSVPs and notifications: **RSVP & Guestbook Guide**, Steps 1–3.

Updating your website later

Make your changes in the Customizer, download a new ZIP, unzip it and drag the new folder onto your project's **Deploys** page (not onto the Projects page, which would create a second website). Your address, RSVPs and settings stay the same.

Optional – Use your own domain

Your site works perfectly on its free `.netlify.app` address. If you'd like something like `annaandben.com`:

1. In your project, open **Domain management › Add a domain**.
2. Either buy a domain there (a yearly fee charged by Netlify), or enter a domain you already own and follow Netlify's instructions to update the DNS settings at your domain seller.
3. Netlify adds the secure https:// certificate automatically. DNS changes can take a few hours.

Domains are optional and paid separately to the domain seller. EMD doesn't sell or manage domains.

Netlify plans, usage and costs

- Netlify offers a free plan with a **monthly usage allowance** ("credits"). At the time of writing, publishing (each drag-and-drop) and visitor traffic use part of it, and form submissions don't. Check **netlify.com/pricing** for current details, because plans can change.
- If a free account uses up its monthly allowance, Netlify **pauses the website** until the next month (or until you upgrade). A typical wedding website stays well within it. Publish only when you've finished a round of changes.
- You can see your usage in **Team settings › Usage & billing**.
- Netlify is an independent company. Your use of it is under Netlify's own terms. EMD isn't responsible for Netlify's plans, prices or availability.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
Guests see "Not found" or a login page	The project is still Private: click **Make public**. Also check you uploaded the folder that contains `index.html`, not a folder one level above it.
A second website appeared	You dropped the folder on the **Projects** page. To update, drop it on your project's **Deploys** page. You can delete the extra project in its **Configuration › Danger zone**.
"The form isn't switched on for this website yet"	Enable form detection, then drag the folder onto Deploys again (RSVP & Guestbook Guide, Step 1).
"Preview only: nothing was sent"	You're in the Customizer preview. Forms only send on your published website.
"This form works once the website is published"	You opened `index.html` from your computer. Publish it first.
No notification emails	Confirm the email link Netlify sent you, check your spam folder, and make sure the notification is for "Any form" or "rsvp".
A reply is missing	Look in **Spam submissions**.
No music	Music starts only after a guest taps the envelope, and phones in silent mode may stay quiet. Check that music is switched on in the Customizer.
Old version still showing	Refresh the page, or open it in a private window. Your browser may be showing a saved copy.
"Site not available" page	Your Netlify account's monthly allowance is used up. See **Usage & billing**.
My Customizer work is gone	Make sure you're using the same browser and device, not a private window. Otherwise use **More › Restore a backup** with your backup file.

Still stuck? Message us on Etsy with a screenshot. Never send passwords or login codes.