

2016 Wedding

Guide



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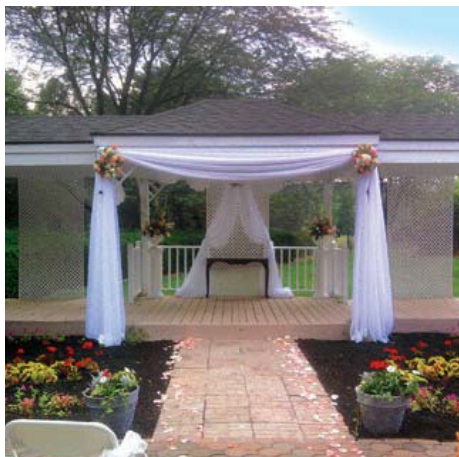
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WEDDING VEILS COMPLETE BRIDAL LOOK

The perfect dress is on the wish list of many a bride-to-be, but no bridal ensemble is truly complete until the bride chooses her veil.

Veils have been worn by brides at their weddings for centuries. Veils can be traced back to the Middle East, where veils helped protect against the weather while also preserving the modesty of the bride. In Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, veils were used as protection against evil spirits.

According to popular wedding website The Knot.com, until Vatican II, all Catholic women were required to have their heads covered in church, including during their wedding ceremonies. Veils were worn for this purpose, but they also symbolized trust in the groom and his love and companionship. Some Christians also see the veil as a visual representation of submission to the Church and to God. Others think of the veil as another beautiful accompaniment to their bridal gown, without attaching any additional meaning to the veil itself.

Veils come in various lengths and can complement the style of a wedding gown. They also tend to add glamour to brides' looks. Here are the types of veils from shortest to longest.

- Blusher: Blushers cover the face, though some extend only to mid-cheek on the bride.
- Flyaway: Flyaways cover just the back of the head. Shorter veils may work better on petite women.
- Shoulder: Shoulder veils are about 20 inches in length and will hit at the bride's shoulders or just below.
- Waist: Waist-length veils cascade down to the middle of the bride's waist.
- Fingertip: These veils extend down 38 to 42 inches, brushing against the bride's fingertips.

- Waltz/Knee: For a dramatic look, many brides may opt for waltz-length veils, which fall to the back of the knees.
- Chapel/Floor: Veils that extend to the floor may be referred to as "chapel" or "floor-length" veils. Such veils cascade slightly behind the bride. Veils can complete brides' wedding day looks. Shorter veils may be comfortable to wear throughout the day and evening, but brides may want to consider detachable veils if they are selecting lengthier options.

FLOWERS

When making floral arrangements for special events, such as weddings, anniversary celebrations or company galas, party planners can save substantial amounts of money sticking with native and in-season flowers. While exotic flowers flown in from afar may make stunning dining table centerpieces, the cost of importing those flowers can be considerable, possibly even more than the cost of the flowers themselves. In addition, conditions to keep non-native flowers looking their best must be ideal, which can be difficult for party planners to ensure. In-season plants are budget-friendly, as prices can skyrocket when party planners choose out-of-season blooms for their get-togethers. While it's possible get many flowers out-of-season, others are available only in-season, saving planners the trouble of finding ways to pay the often exorbitant costs associated with finding and securing such blooms during their off-seasons. Planners who have their hearts set on particular blooms that are temporarily unavailable should discuss their options with local florists, who may suggest look-alike flowers that are similar in appearance and in-season.

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REHEARSAL DINNER HOW-TO

Many couples find their wedding rehearsal dinners to be relaxing respites from the whirlwind of wedding planning. Such dinners enable the happy couple to slow down and enjoy themselves in a relatively casual gathering with their closest friends and family members.

Rehearsal dinners typically take place in the night or two before the wedding. The couple, members of their wedding party, the parents of the bride and groom and others involved in the wedding typically attend this dinner. The couple generally takes the time at the dinner to thank everyone for their contributions to the wedding and to offer some small gifts of appreciation. No rules govern rehearsal dinners, so couples have the freedom to plan the dinners as they see fit.

Rehearsal dinners often come immediately after the ceremony rehearsal, when the wedding party and the officiant go over the timing and details of the wedding. Make arrangements with the ceremony site and officiant prior to making dinner reservations. Parents of the groom traditionally host the rehearsal dinner, so they will be integral in planning the event. That means couples should keep an open and gracious mind. Remember, the rehearsal dinner doesn't have to be a lavish affair, and it can be customized to any budget or preference.

Some couples feel that hosting rehearsal dinners in casual settings can make the dinner more comfortable for members of the wedding, who can use the dinner as an opportunity to mingle and get to know one another before the wedding. This will help to

tame nerves and enable the wedding party to loosen up and enjoy themselves even more. Some people may be more inclined to socialize and have fun when they're not worried about putting on airs.

Restaurants that have special meaning to the couple often make for great places to hold rehearsal dinners. The bride and groom can suggest their ideas, but ultimately it is the person handling the bill who has the final say. Couples who want greater control over the rehearsal dinner festivities can suggest hosting it themselves.

Despite its name, the rehearsal dinner doesn't actually have to be a dinner, as couples can opt for meals at a different time of the day, like brunch or lunch. An earlier occasion gives guests plenty of time to get home and rest up for the festivities of the wedding to come.

Toasts are expected at the rehearsal dinner, but they tend to be spontaneous, off-the-cuff remarks. A couple with a good sense of humor might not mind being roasted at their rehearsal dinners. The bride and groom should expect to say a few words of thanks to all in attendance, but remarks need not be too formal. Rehearsal dinners may even feature a little entertainment. Tech-savvy parents may put together a presentation with videos or photographs that chronicles the couple's lives separately and their life together.

Rehearsal dinners provide an opportunity for couples and their families to spend time together before the larger festivities of the wedding pull them in multiple directions. Plus, they set a fun tone for the wedding weekend to come.

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