

Wedding Ceremony

What to Wear When

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Emerald Contributor

In choosing her dress for that big day, a bride must consider the size and formality of the wedding. She must also take into account the season and the time of the day the ceremony is to be held. Dress for a small summer afternoon wedding would be less formal than that of a large winter evening wedding, and more formal than a private civil ceremony.

The proper dress for the bride's attendants, the groom, his best man and ushers, the mothers, and even the guests depend upon the bride's choice of dress.

For a very formal evening wedding, the bride should wear a long dress with a cathedral or in-between-length train. Her veil may cover her train, or be shorter. If it is shorter than her fingertips, it should be very full. Long gloves should be worn with short sleeves, otherwise they are optional.

Attendants Wear

Her attendants' dresses should be long and have shoulder covering. A small cap, with or without a short veil, and long or short gloves in white or pale colors should be worn. The mothers should also wear long, conservative evening dresses, small hats, and white or pale gloves.

The men in the wedding party should wear full dress (tail coat, stiff white shirt, wing collar, white lawn tie, white waistcoat), white evening gloves, and a white boutonniere. Guests should wear conservative evening dresses and dark suits. The dress for a formal daytime wedding is more casual. The dresses of the bride's attendants and of the mothers may be short. The men may wear a cutaway coat or black sack coat, waistcoat, gray-striped or black with white pin striped trousers, black and white ascot, black shoes and socks, and a white boutonniere.

Semiformal Wedding

At a semiformal evening wedding, the bride's dress should be long with only a small or chapel length train. Her veil should be fingertip or shorter. If it is shorter, it should be very full. Gloves should be worn with short sleeves. The dress for the attendants and mothers should be similar to that of a formal wedding, but the style and type of fabric may be more simple.

The men may wear tuxedos, white shirt with pleated front, black waistcoat or cummerbund, black silk bow tie, white boutonniere, and patent-leather oxford shoes.

At a semiformal daytime wedding, the bride's attendants and the mothers may wear short dresses.

For an informal evening wedding, the bride may choose a long or short wedding gown, or a cocktail dress in white or pastel. She may either wear a short veil or a small hat. The dresses of the attendants and mothers should be short and show the same degree of formality as the bride's

dress. The accessories should be suitable for the costume. The correct dress for the men is the same for a semiformal wedding.

At an informal daytime wedding, the bride has the same choice as for an evening wedding, or may wear an afternoon dress or suit. A short veil or hat is proper. Her attendants' and the mother's costumes should have the same degree of formality as her outfit. If the bride chooses daytime dress, the men may wear a dark blue, black, or very dark gray suit, white shirt, bow or four-in-hand tie, black socks, and calfskin oxford shoes, and a white boutonniere.

If, however, she is in a wedding gown or cocktail dress, they

must wear the same dress as for a semiformal wedding.

For a small private ceremony, the bride may wear a white or pastel suit or dress with matching accessories. Instead of carrying a bouquet, she may wear a corsage. The groom may wear a dark suit.

At any wedding other than a very formal one, normal church dress is proper for guests.

The bride should consider the season and climate when choosing the fabric and cut of her dress. At an informal daytime wedding in very warm weather, the groom may wear an all-white linen suit, white socks, and buckskin shoes.



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