



PERFECT ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS

Congratulations, you're engaged. This is such an exciting time as you and your now fiancé join together and make plans to share the rest of your lives together.

After celebrating with friends and loved ones, one of the first things you will want to do is capture the moment in engagement photos.

You've most likely seen engagement photos before — the good, the bad and the outright cringe-worthy. To avoid the latter, consider the following elements.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Choosing a local photographer is key. Look through portfolios and other engagement sessions each professional has photographed.

Keep in mind that many photographers include an engagement photo shoot in their wedding photo package, so you will save in the long run if you book the same photographer for your wedding as your engagement session.

SCHEDULE EARLY

There are many benefits to snapping your engagement photos as early as possible. Not only will you want to capture the moment while your emotions of excitement are at their peak, but if you have them in hand early, you can incorporate them into your save-the-date cards and your wedding website or publish it with an engagement announcement in the local paper.

Even if you choose to do none of these things, it will be one task complete. This will give you the free time to focus your attention

elsewhere later — when you will need to make many decisions very quickly.

CHOOSE A STYLE

Your engagement photos should reflect who you and your fiancé are as a couple. You, your fiancé and your photographer should discuss overall style and location, as well as any outfit changes you might have planned.

Keep in mind how you plan to use the photos, as well as who will want them. Think of what you wouldn't want hanging on your grandmother's wall.

PLAN YOUR OUTFITS

Stick with styles that complement one another and stay within the same color pallet. You also want to avoid looking like a "matching set."

Many brides-to-be incorporate white attire into their engagement sessions, which is a classic choice and allows the groom to choose colors he is comfortable in, as everything matches white.