



Summer romance

Plan to wed in the heat of the summer? Follow these tips to ensure a cool event for all

Beachside locations and lightweight clothing can tame the heat of summer weddings.

May, June and July consistently rank among the most popular months to get married. These months typically provide pleasant weather, and if it does rain, it's often in the form of a brief thunderstorm.

But summer weather can be extremely hot, and while a sunny, warm day may be perfect beach days, such conditions are not always ideal for weddings, especially weddings that take place outdoors. If wedding-day weather threatens to be very hot, explore these methods to staying cool.

Choose a later start time

A late-afternoon wedding may be the way to go in the summertime. The temperature usually drops a bit in the early evening,

even though the sun won't set for a couple of hours. That lingering summertime sun allows the bride and groom to enjoy an outdoor ceremony and still take beautiful outdoor photos.

Rely on shade and proximity to water

Shade can be your friend when the sun is blazing. If your outdoor wedding is in the early afternoon, keep temperatures under wrap by seating guests beneath umbrellas or inside a tent.

Have beverage tables

Keep canisters of cold beverages at the ready so guests can easily quench their thirst. Fresh lemonade, iced tea and water with a few sprigs of mint can help guests ward off dehydration.

Tie the knot near the water

Breezes off of the water also help combat the heat, so a lake-side or beach wedding can make hot temperatures more manageable.

Choose practical hairstyles and makeup

Brides may prefer up-dos to keep hair off of their necks and allow for breezes to cool their bodies. Rely on makeup primers and powdered foundations so that makeup does not melt in the heat.

Waterproof cosmetics are advisable so that perspiration won't cause makeup to run.

Wear breathable fabrics

Opt for lightweight fabrics instead of heavy gowns and full tuxedos for the bride, groom

and wedding party. Cotton and linen allow air to flow through clothing, helping people to stay cool.

Light colors also will help deflect the sun. Bridal gowns made of chiffon, silk or satin may feel luxurious and help tame the heat.

Tailor the reception menu to the weather

A large, heavy meal may not be what guests are hoping for when temperatures are especially hot. In such situations, provide some cool, light fare, such as chilled salads or cold soups, as first courses. Sorbet can be a cool palate cleanser, and grilled meats and vegetables will make for a satisfying, light main course.