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The Perfect Fit

10 Tips to Finding the Wedding Gown of Your Dreams

Buying a wedding gown may seem like a difficult task. Here are some tips to help you decide what to choose, what to look for, and what to expect.

1. The first thing to remember is to choose a gown that gives your silhouette banging proportions, yes I said Banging! Ladies you know what I mean...we are aiming for an hourglass figure, or as close as possible. For example, if you are short-waisted, try a drop waist. If you are petite, an empire waist gown will elongate your frame. If you are pear shaped anything that is form fitting and flared or mermaid will look super sexy. If you have slim hips and thick thighs you may opt for a trumpet shape versus a mermaid.
2. A-Line skirts flatter most body types, ball gowns are timeless, corseted tops are flattering on most body types as well.
3. Many women think they cannot wear a strapless gown; however, it is truly the easiest neckline to wear. It's all in the fit. In order to keep the gown from sliding down, it should be altered to fit snugly on the hip. It will not help if the fit of the gown is tight at the breast. Also scalloped neck lines are a beautiful and interesting take on strapless gowns. If you have broad shoulder try one shoulder and halter top gowns.
4. When selecting couture, rather than off-the-rack, expect the price tag to be at least \$5,000. Although, don't be shocked if the cost starts climbing upwards to \$25,000.
5. If you find a gown that has an amazing silhouette, but needs a little umph you can easily add a belt or visit your seamstress. The seamstress can add crystals, stones, beads, pearls and jewels. They can even add lace to take an ordinary dress so it becomes extraordinary.
6. White isn't necessarily white. There are over 10 shades of white. White ranges from snow white to antique. Consider your skin tone and what season it will be when you tie the knot. If you are daring don't be afraid of champagnes, pastels, and pink undertones in your white dresses.
7. Schedule at least three fittings to get the perfect fit. Take into consideration your monthly cycle, water weight gain, and the probable temperature and humidity on your wedding day. These are all important factors. Also wear the same undergarments you will be wearing on the wedding day if possible, and wear your shoes. This will insure the hemline of the dress is exactly what you want.

8. Lace up and corseted dresses cost a bit less due to the fact they can be tightened and adjusted to change the fit of the dress

9. Don't start shopping too early! Contrary to popular belief you can wait up to six months before the wedding date to buy a dress. I'll be honest, I've had brides have dresses custom made, or they have bought off the rack a month before the wedding and they looked stunning. Of course to get a dress customized this fast it does add a bit to the bottom line, but it's possible. I do recommend shopping for your dress 8-12 months out. Do be ready to purchase the dress of your dreams when you find it. Anticipate paying at least 25% of the total fee. Also if you can pay for the dress entirely or a larger percentage you may even get a discount!!

10. Wedding dresses usually run 1-2 sizes smaller than day to day clothing. Do not fixate on the size in the dress. Instead focus on your measurements, the fit of the gown. Order the dress that fits your body currently. A dress can be taken in up to four sizes, but most can only be let out only to only one size larger...Yikes!!

Wedding Dress shopping shouldn't be stressful. This is a joyous occasion. Remember you are a big deal and you should look and feel stunning. Find what feels good to you and what looks good on you. You're going to look Amazing!!!

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