

# Wedding transportation

After months of details and planning, and hundreds of decisions, make sure not to overlook one of the most important details: wedding transportation. Your chosen mode of transportation can help set the mood and make you feel at ease and comfortable. Indeed, this is one finishing touch that can leave both the happy couple and their guests with a memorable vision for years to come. Hot air balloons, super stretch limousines, antique cars or horse drawn carriages are all possibilities to consider.

Your search for a transportation company to drive you to your wedding and reception and then off to begin your new life together should begin simply. Ask your family, friends and other brides-to-be for recommendations. Make sure to ask for references and check the licenses for both the company and the particular driver to ensure reliable service and safety. Visit the company to see the vehicles and chauffeurs firsthand.

Like so many other wedding services, transportation is available with many choices to suit your individual needs. Meet with several companies. Keep your budget in mind. Get a list of the services offered with wedding packages. There may be a range of prices and rates are generally calculated by the hour. Don't forget your wedding party and family members. Consider renting an additional vehicle so that they can ride alongside you in ultimate style.

The choice is yours. Think about the image you are trying to create, traditional, nostalgic or whimsical. Transportation can be the finishing touch that ties everything together and brings the wedding of your dreams into reality.

# The perfect dress

By: Terrica R Skaggs

You've dreamt of this day since the days of Barbie and Ken-now that it is finally here, the possibilities are endless! Before we get into all of the sizes, cuts and adornments on gowns, let's get the basic and necessary fundamentals out of the way:

Never put a deposit down or pay for a gown when you have not confirmed the date of the wedding. A lot of brides, with their rose colored glasses, even start buying gowns at the mere mention of the marriage. Never crash diet or buy a gown sizes smaller with the expectation of losing weight. It is far easier to take a gown in, than it is to have it customized and then taken out if you don't meet your goal. Don't put unrealistic expectations on your plate. You have enough to deal with.

Now that we've got that out of the way, let's talk shop! There are many things to consider when choosing the perfect gown-color, your complexion, size, cut, and the formality of your event. The latter is something I think a lot of brides forget to associate with their gown and wedding.

Take your measurements. While the gowns you see online in magazines and books are gorgeous, it is always best for you to try them on. If you are: **Top Heavy**, we need to create an illusion of balance and length with you. Choose a full, billowing skirt with plenty of adornments and an elongated bodice. Avoid any extra ornamentation on the bodice. The same goes for low necklines, full sleeves and empire style dresses.

**Short**, in your case steer clear of any design that will accentuate your stature. Instead, create an illusion of height with an empire waistline. If you are going formal, try short sleeves with long gloves.

**Pear Shaped**, in this instance, you are narrow in the torso and fuller in the hips and thighs. Shoot for a bodice that is textured and bejeweled. Accentuate the waist in a simple skirt.

**Tall**, for you, I love the high fashion look of tiers and flounces to balance your height. Look for bodices with low, ornamented necklines.

**Full-Figured**, you should avoid the flounces and tiers suggested above and contrasting colors. Instead, opt for a princess style gown that will skim the body. Necklines with a V or U shape are best, especially when accompanied by an A line skirt.

**Thin**, you also look great in princess style gowns or gowns with a Basque waist and full skirt. Bloused bodices with a gathered skirt are also great options for you.

After you confirm your shape, consider your complexion. It is important, even if you intend to tan, to understand your hues will determine what will flatter your appearance best, live and in photos. Darker complexioned brides and brides with dark hair look best in beautiful, bright whites. Blondes and redheads are stunning in creamy and silk whites. This is also true for porcelain-skinned brunettes.

Now consider the formality of your event: **Formal to Ultra-formal**: Your gown should be cut from a rich fabric (silk chiffon in the summer, satin in the winter). You can have a full skirt with a train. Remember, the longer the aisle, the longer the train!

**Semiformal**: Your gown should at least be full length or your train should sweep the floor. For this type of occasion, bare shoulders and taffeta type skirts are considered acceptable.

**Informal**: Because of the flexibility of your wedding, you have the most choices with out restrictions or provisos. You can look for a ballerina or floor length type skirt to a dressy suit. Your possibilities are endless!

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