

# Shower the Couple with Fun!

Wedding showers are a fun part of the pre-wedding activities. Besides providing friends and family the chance to give much-needed gifts to the engaged couple, showers are a great excuse to get together and celebrate before the wedding. Following are some hints to help make your shower both fun and successful.

- Ten Steps to a Successful Shower.
1. Guests: Consult with the wedding couple, their parents, the bridal party and other friends to ensure a complete guest list.
  2. Time: Select the day and hour of your shower while you're clearing the guest list. Make sure the principal guests can attend.
  3. Theme: Have a creative theme that will suit the couple's personalities.
  4. Location: Pick a location that will accommodate the number of potential guests and that will work with your theme.
  5. Invitations: Invitations may be purchased or handmade. Mail them at least two weeks before the shower. Include all of the following: name of person(s) being honored, date, time, place (include directions), kind (theme), where the couple is registered and name of the hosts. Be sure to ask for an R.S.V.P.
  6. Food: Plan a menu to go with your theme. Don't forget silverware, plates, glasses, etc.
  7. Decorations: Choose decorations that will give your shower area a festive look.
  8. Activities: Guests like to do things at showers besides watch the bride open her gifts. Plan fun games that will follow the theme or have someone demonstrate a new craft.
  9. Helpers: Contact guests you know well to help you run your shower smoothly.
  10. Relax and enjoy.

Here are some shower themes to help you plan a very memorable occasion for your special bride or couple:

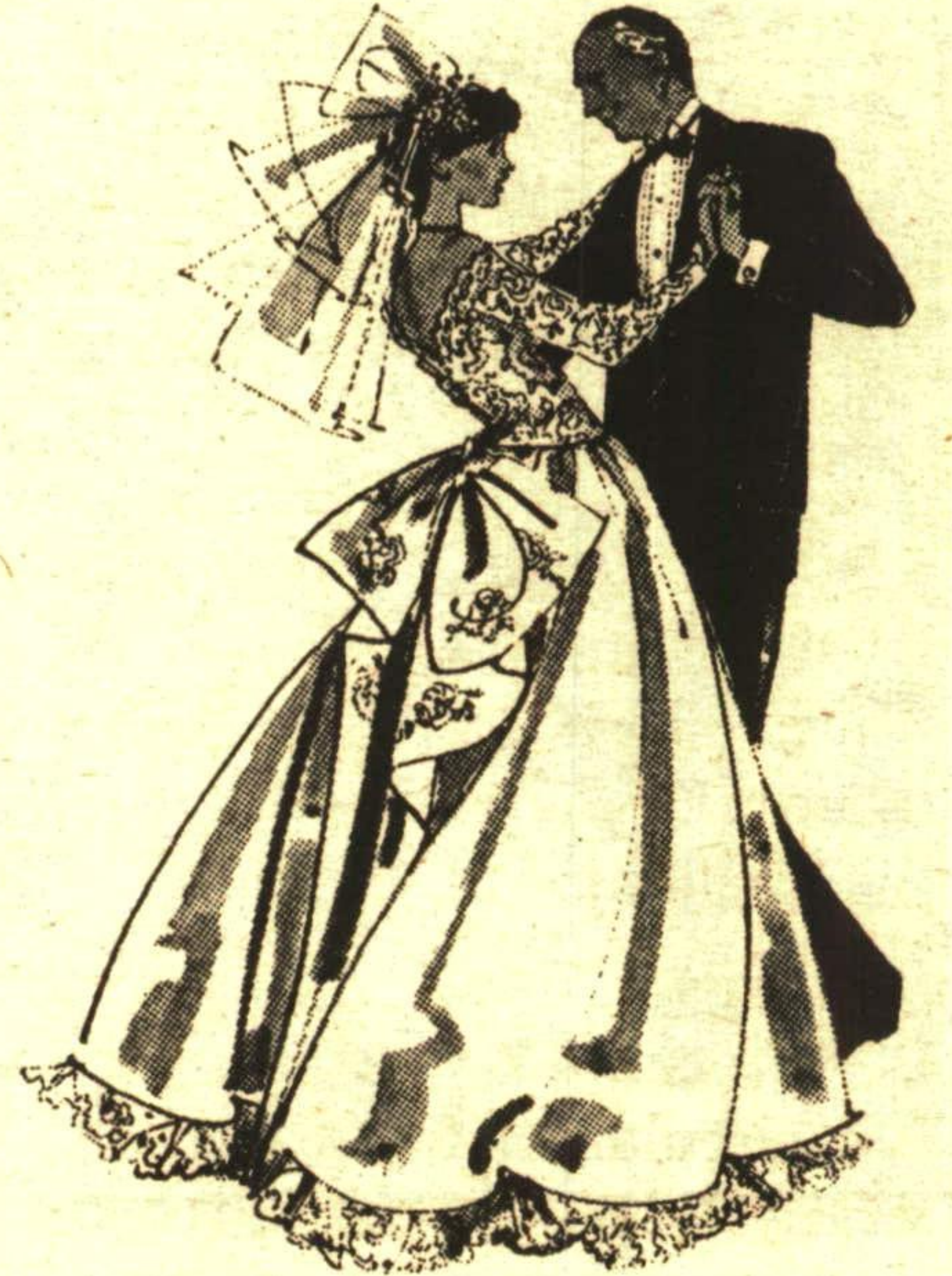
- Shower on a Shoestring—This coordinated potluck activity has each guest bringing a food item in a serving container that will become a gift for the honored guest. After eating, everyone joins to wash and dry the gift pieces. The guests tuck a card and recipe in their containers.
- Wine-and-Cheese-Tasting Shower—This shower is fun for everyone, and it's a great

way to stock the wedding couple's bar. Each guest brings two bottles of wine (one for testing and one wrapped for giving). Before each wine is tested the guests give a toast to the couple.

- Handy Andy/Hardware Hannah Shower—The couple is presented with scissors, batteries, hammers, brooms and other similar gifts. Each is wrapped in the original hardware store bag and tied with twine or rope. End the party with a handy hint session: each guest gives one helpful suggestion and writes it on a 3 x 5 card.

- Greenhouse Shower—The wedding couple is "sprinkled" with gifts such as plants, flowers, greenery, pots, macrame hangers, containers, garden tools and supplies.

- Postal Shower—When a couple is married in a far-off state and most of the hometown crowd can't attend, hold this type of shower. Set a date and ask the couple to be at a certain place at a certain time. Instruct everyone to mail a present so it will arrive before the shower date. Have the outer wrappings say: "Do not open until 6:30 p.m. on September 17!" Plan a gathering in your hometown for that time. Call the couple to extend best wishes.





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## Dressing for the Wedding

Size of the wedding, time of day, location—all of these serve to determine the style of the wedding and the kind of attire to be worn by the participants. The following "dress code" is the traditional, but as in most things, it is subject to change or modification. It is best to consult local formal-wear specialists for information about the very latest in styles.

### FORMAL DAYTIME

**The Bride:** White, ivory or delicate pastel tinted floor-length wedding dress with a cathedral or chapel (sweep) train. Long veil covering the train or making the train. If shorter, then very full with many layers. Bouquet or prayer book; shoes to match gown; long gloves with short-sleeved wedding dress, otherwise gloves are optional; simple jewelry.

**The Men:** Cutaway coats (either oxford gray or black) with striped trousers, gray waistcoats, wing-collared white shirts and striped ascots.

**The Bridesmaids:** Floor-length dresses, simple caps

or hats with or without short veils, gloves to complement length of sleeves, shoes to match or blend with dresses, any style bouquets, honor attendant's dress may match or contrast in color with other attendants' dresses.

**The Mothers:** Simple floor-length or three-quarter length dresses, small hats (optional), shoes, gloves and corsages to harmonize. The mothers' ensembles should complement each other in regard to style, color and length.

### SEMI-FORMAL DAYTIME

**The Bride:** White or pastel floor-length dress. Veil: elbow length or shorter. Same accessories as formal wedding.

**The Men:** Gray or black striped trousers, gray vests, white soft-collared shirts, gray-and-white striped ties.

**The Bridesmaids:** Same as for formal wedding, although cut and fabrics may be simpler.

**The Mothers:** Same as for formal wedding.



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