

Your wedding your way

A wedding doesn't just happen... whatever type of wedding you decide on — big or small, formal or informal. It will take lots of careful planning.

Even the wording of the ceremony itself should be taken into consideration.

Not long ago, the ceremony, and the accompanying music, were rarely varied. But in

today's enlightened society many couples choose to compose their own version of the vows they exchange.

It's a much more personal way of expressing your feelings about the very deep commitment being made. But don't forget... it's a commitment being made between the two of you. Don't make any definite

plans without first consulting your fiancé... it's his wedding too!

Some couples ask their clergyman to incorporate into the service a particular reading or thought that is especially important to them. Or some couples may wish to have friends and family participate in the ceremony with them. Your selection of music can also be very original — whether you choose different instruments, different selections, or both.

Your wedding may mean a completely traditional ceremony, or an entirely innovative one, or a bit of each.

But you and your clergyman must agree on this in advance, and if you feel that your points of view differ too greatly, thank him for his consideration and find a clergyman who feels more as you do.

To help you decide what sort of wedding best suits you, we're printing descriptions of the most usual wedding ceremonies to act as a guide — Ultra-formal, formal and informal. Remember that these are only sug-

gestions for you to work with — today the general rule is no rule at all. Have "your wedding your way" in the manner that is most meaningful to you both.

Ultra-Formal
This calls for a fairly large guest list and is almost always held in a church or temple, though occasionally in a ballroom or large home. The invitations, enclosure cards, and announcements are always engraved.

The bride wears a traditional long white gown with a train and veil. The groom wears a cutaway (full dress for an evening ceremony). There may be as many as six to twelve bridesmaids, as well as a maid, and possibly matron of honor, and even one or two child attendants if you like.

There is always music: an organist, and in some cases, additional instrumentalists, and a soloist or choir. The ceremony is usually traditional in all respects. Accordingly, the reception is large and elaborate.

Formal
Here the guest list usually ranges bet-

ween fifty and two hundred. Invitations may be engraved, printed, or handwritten. There are usually two to four bridesmaids (including the honor attendant) and seldom any child attendants. The site is the same as that for an ultra-formal wedding, although the church, club, or home could be smaller.

The bridal gown is simpler — traditional, if you like, but with a short train (if any) and a short veil. The groom may wear formal attire (a tuxedo for an evening wedding) or a dark business suit. Often there is no soloist.

Informal
This is the most flexible type of wedding. It may be held anywhere: church, home, rectory, judge's chambers, or garden. It is usually small, though there is no rule about how many guests or attendants you may have. The bride may wear anything she likes, with or without a head covering. The groom enjoys similar leeway. The invitations are often handwritten or verbal. Generally there is no processional or recessional, and music is optional.



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One hour before

That last hour before the actual wedding ceremony is vital... all those long hours of planning are over and will now be put to the test. Why not have a reliable friend or relative — not a member of the wedding party — check out all those last minute details for you after thoroughly acquainting them with the plans well in advance.

This can be an enormous help and will leave you free to concentrate on just looking and feeling your best.

Here is the usual sequence for a traditional church wedding: All the flowers for the wedding party should be in the church at least 1½ hours before the ceremony is due to begin.

Have the florist deliver them earlier on the day of your wedding.

Ushers should be at the church at least 45 minutes (preferably one hour) early in order to seat everyone without a last minute rush.

If you plan to have music, it should begin half an hour before the ceremony. A soloist or choir does not sing until just before the processional.

Be sure that your bridesmaids know where to wait — they should be at the church fifteen to thirty minutes before the ceremony (unless they've dressed at the church.)

The groom and his best man should arrive at about the same time as the bridesmaids and go to the vestry. The bride, with her father, should be the last to arrive (10 or 15 minutes before the ceremony unless the bride has dressed at the church.)

The head usher should have a list of special guests, making sure that relatives and special friends are seated in the front pews of the church.

Just before the processional the groom's mother is escorted down the aisle by the head usher (or an usher from her family) to the front pew on the right. The groom's father will follow.

Stay cool

Perspiration plays an important role in maintaining body temperature, but excessive perspiration can be a problem.

However, perspiration can be controlled to some extent with a combination of the right antiperspirant or deodorant and good personal hygiene, reports the Aerosol Packaging Council.

Use antiperspirant sprays that contain aluminum compounds. These inhibit bacterial growth, which causes the odor that often accompanies perspiration.

Shower often. In warm weather especially, wash underarms several times a day.

Remember, when the big day finally arrives, try to relax and stay calm and cool. Enjoy your day!

Free Consultation

Bring in fabric samples of the wedding party and let us co-ordinate your flowers in fresh or silk, in our bridal room.

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