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## Attire for Any Type of Wedding (except Royal)

I'm invited to several different kinds of weddings this year so what should I buy? Ah, good question. You probably want to know if you need to purchase an outfit for each one. Read on to see if your wallet is going to be stretched.

Before we talk about the style of dress, let's talk about the overall guidelines for dressing for a wedding. First, never wear white, cream or any other shade that looks like white. Yes, this rule still exists and you need to respect the bride by following it.

Second, don't bare too much skin or wear something excessively tight. If you wonder if it's appropriate, it's not. Err on the side of covering up rather than showing too much (including every bulge by going too tight) and embarrassing other guests and the bride.

Third, you're there to blend in to the crowd and make it a happy day for the bride, not to try to steal the spotlight by a very theatrical outfit. You can show your style but don't be over the top.

Let's now talk about what works to great and feel great. Feel free to wear color, whether it's brights or pastels. Black is okay for an evening wedding, but if it's a daytime wedding, have fun with color.

Full skirts, long dresses, florals and ruffles are in the season so be girlie. Be bold by wearing a floral long dress. This is a way to attract the right kind of attention-you'll stand out yet still be appropriate.

Great fabrics to choose are jerseys, silks, silk chiffon and organza. Cotton blends are great also but make sure your dress is perfectly pressed when you leave the house and be aware it will get wrinkled somewhat quickly.

Evening weddings call for a little more drama, but remember, not over the top. You can choose a strapless style that doesn't show too much cleavage or that's too short. A one shoulder style is sexy without being too much.

Unless all of the same people are going to be at each wedding, pick one dress you can wear to the day ones and one for the evening weddings.

A nude shoe is great for day and a metallic works well for evening.

By following these guidelines and tips, you'll choose the perfect outfit(s) that will look great on you and can be worn to weddings and other events.

Note: Royal wedding attire is different (although the same guidelines apply). Please call for consultation.



All dresses from [www.shop.nordstrom.com](http://www.shop.nordstrom.com)

## A Man's Perspective: Degrees of Formality

Let's address some frequently asked questions about formal wear such as what does black tie optional mean or what constitutes semiformal attire.

It's important to understand the traditional definitions of some of the most popular formal wear terms in order to dress properly for a particular occasion.

Since today's fashion is more flexible, use your knowledge as a starting point and then adjust your outfit to reflect a more modern, sophisticated you.

Formal means formal. No exceptions; but you can be creative by showing your individual style in your use of your shirt and tie color combinations.

Black tie optional-this fashion style sometimes pops up on invites for daytime weddings. While tuxedos are welcome, you'll look sharp wearing a cotton, tweed

or linen suit in either an earthy or dark color.

Remember: semiformal is still formal. Semiformal specifications can be somewhat tricky. Make sure the person sending the invitations really means semiformal and not informal. You don't want to be the odd one out.

An evening event still calls for a dark suit at the very least. But today's fashions would dictate that ties are not absolutely necessary to complete the look at a semiformal event.

As always common sense prevails when dressing for any occasion, but following these rules you have learned will go a long way towards your success on your journey to becoming an Impeccably Dressed Man.

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## Looking Fab in all Those Event Photos

It's that time of year again; time for having your picture taken at all different events such as weddings, graduations, picnics and other celebrations. Follow these easy tips and you'll look fabulous every time.

### Men

Make sure your fly is closed.

This isn't the time to go scruffy. Make sure you're freshly shaved or if you have facial hair, that it's recently trimmed and groomed.

Take time to trim and/or pluck brows, nose hair and ear hair. Seriously.

### Women

Make sure you don't have lipstick on your teeth.

Blot off all oil and shininess (paper towels work great).

Plump up your hair if it's lost its volume.

### Both

Make sure your shoes are clean and shined.

Smile as naturally as possible. You don't want to look forced or uncomfortable.

Slightly lower and push forward your chin. This will help with lines and double chins.

Stand at a diagonal with one foot in front of the other. Remember that air equals slimness so stand with your hand on your hip so there's air between your body and arm.

Follow these tips, and you won't be afraid to show off you and those pearly whites.

