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## How to choose a wedding suit

We all know the wedding dress will be stunning on the big day, but suits for you and your groomsmen are just as important as they need thought and planning. A tailored bespoke suit will make you look and feel amazing. Your appearance should be special, just like your wedding day.

In recent years, an increased interest in men's fashion and more informal office wear has meant the spectrum of wedding suits available has extended significantly.

Consider the overall look your wedding will have, from the bride's gown, the theme of the ceremony to the location. Are you thinking of a traditional morning suit? A more modern or semi-casual style? Or something aligned to your individual flair?

### Which style of suit should you choose?

Men can have a hard time choosing the perfect outfit – once you've searched the internet and perused the many wedding magazines, you could be more confused than when you started. The style of wedding, time of day and individual taste all need to be taken into account.

A popular choice is a tailored two- or three-piece that fits you perfectly, makes you feel comfortable yet ceremonial, and has the versatility to be worn again after the wedding. It makes financial sense to invest in garments you can wear more than once.

The formal look is the familiar and go-to option for many weddings. This can range from a full morning suit, tails, tuxedo, stroller jacket, dinner jacket or dark suit.

**Morning suit:** This is the most formal and traditional design in black or dark-neutral colours. As a morning coat will be heavier than a regular suit jacket or tuxedo, a three-piece (a tailcoat, waistcoat and trousers) is a better option rather than just a jacket and trousers. This enables you to remove the jacket during the reception and a

waistcoat will give you an extra layer to look formal without feeling uncomfortable. Morning suits are usually worn for morning/midday/early afternoon weddings.

**Tails:** This is the evening equivalent of the morning suit and is an elegant choice for a formal evening wedding. The jacket is short at the front with two long tails at the back and worn with braces and a white pique shirt, vest and bow tie.

**Tuxedo:** This style comprises of a classic single button black or grey jacket with shawl, peak, or notched lapels and matching flat front or single pleat trousers. This option is usually worn for evening weddings and incorporates a bow tie, braces and waistcoat (a cummerbund is not obligatory).

**Stroller jacket:** A variation of the morning suit, this design is a hip-length jacket in dark grey or black that is single or double-breasted with peaked lapels. This option can be worn with striped or checked trousers and works well for a semi-formal day wedding.

**Dinner jacket:** A peak lapel dinner jacket is a classic style that never goes out of fashion. Ideal cloths for this choice include luxury wool, velvet or durable blended fabrics that look and feel like wool. Silk lapels that match a side satin stripe on formal black trousers complete the look. Owning a good quality dinner jacket also prepares you for those formal 'Black Tie' events.

**Dark suit:** This option is great for a stylish but informal wedding and is another great alternative to the tuxedo. Colour choices are charcoal grey, black or navy with a solid-colour or subtly patterned tie to add some panache.

Whether you need a morning suit, a stylish three-piece suit or something semi-formal for an outdoor wedding, a tailor-made suit will allow you to have input into the cut, style, weight of cloth and colour. However, in order to create a unique suit and make a huge impact on one of the most memorable days of your life then you need to allow enough time for the tailoring process so that you can get the perfect suit for the day. This means you need to give your tailor enough time to carry out their craft to the very highest standard that your wedding day demands. I have outlined below what the process should look like.

## **The Tailoring Process**

### **12 weeks before the wedding**

This is when you should have the first consultation with your tailor. Your tailor will ask you questions about when your wedding is, the style of wedding you're having, any ideas that you have for your suit, and what kind of budget you're working with.

A good tailor will also speak to your bride-to-be to gain an understanding of what she will be wearing (obviously without divulging the details to you!) so that they can make a suit that will complement the overall style of the wedding.

If you are working with a wedding planner, then your tailor should also liaise with them so that they can fully appreciate the theme for the wedding and keep them informed throughout the process.

The designing of your suit should be a co-ordinated affair where everybody's input is taken into consideration and then you have the final say on what style of suit works for you. If you also need suits for your groomsmen this will also be discussed at this stage so that a plan can be put together.

Once the tailor has a good understanding of what is required for the day then they will create a set of ideas for your suit and present them to you at the next consultation

### **10 weeks before the wedding**

At the second consultation, your tailor will show you and your bride-to-be the designs they have worked on and talk you through the variety of fabrics and patterns that would be suitable for your suit. They will also discuss with you other aspects of what you will be wearing on the day such as shirt, shoes, tie, and accessories such as cuff links, watch, pocket handkerchief etc. At this stage, the fine details of your suit design are discussed with you and when your suit is commissioned, a 50% deposit is taken and a date put in the diary for the first fitting.

### **8 weeks before the wedding**

This is when you will come in for your first fitting and all the relevant measurements will be taken. There is still time for some fine tuning at this stage if you want to make some amendments to the overall design of your suit.

### **6 weeks before the wedding**

At this stage you will come in to assess the look, feel and fit of your suit. Any minor alterations that are required will be agreed and a time will be scheduled for the final fit.

### **4 weeks before the wedding**

Your suit is ready to wear and you will come in for your final fitting to make sure that everything is perfect for your big day!

### **How The Bespoke Tailor can help**

Tailored garments make you feel more comfortable, more chic and more confident. When you look good, you feel good – and that's exactly what you want for formal occasions. I will create and design a look that will be perfect for your special occasion. With over 20 years' experience in the UK menswear and tailoring industry, I travel all over the UK providing a bespoke service and a 'Savile Row' experience direct to my clients at their office, home or other convenient location. Please contact me on 07968 438717 or email [adrian@thebespoketailor.co.uk](mailto:adrian@thebespoketailor.co.uk) if you would like to find out more or to arrange a consultation.



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