

Bridesmaid Dresses - Advice: Tips for Buying Bridesmaid Dresses

Start Early

Manufacturers are constantly adding and discontinuing styles and often increasing prices on more popular carryover styles of bridesmaid dresses. As a result, it is strongly recommended shopping for and ordering your dresses as soon as you have made a decision on the dress(es) you want. Different manufacturers have different lead times. You will also want to leave enough time for alterations – usually at least 1 month before the wedding if not sooner.

Make a Shopping Date – No appointment necessary in Chantilly Lace!

It is recommended that the bride go shopping with her Maid/Matron of Honor and/or 1 or 2 of her bridesmaids and see what styles of bridesmaid dresses they like. Make a date to go shopping and have fun! Once you narrow it down, you can then get input from your other bridesmaids if you desire. It's usually helpful to have a second opinion, especially from someone who will be wearing the dress. However, ultimately it is the bride's decision.

Get Measured – Chantilly Lace is happy to do this!!

The first thing you want to do is to have all of the bridesmaids professionally measured for their bridesmaid dresses. You can often do this at your first bridal shop or department store. This way you can cross reference them with the size chart for the manufacturer you have selected in order to ensure you order the size that is closest to their figure. Most designers make their dresses in accordance with the measurements of their own size chart and not to each individual. As a result, you won't be able to assume that a size 8 from manufacturer "A" will fit the same way a size 8 does from manufacturer "B". Also remember that your taller bridesmaids may need to add extra length to their dresses.

Consider Your Bridesmaids

When choosing a dress, it is the bride's privilege to select the color and type of fabric of the bridesmaids' dresses. It should complement the bride's gown, but it should also be comfortable and attractive for the attendants. Consideration should be given to the bridesmaids' styles, color preferences, their figure types as well as their budgets.

Order All At Once – Chantilly Lace can help compile this information with you!!

You should order all your bridesmaid dresses at the same time as fabric dye-lots can vary. If you order the dresses one at a time, the dresses might not all be from the same dye-lot so they might not all be the exact same color. This goes for dyed shoes as well.

Leave Plenty of Time for Alterations – Chantilly Lace offers in-house professional alterations!!

Once you order your dresses, be sure to set up an appointment for alterations for your bridesmaid dresses. Since most dresses will need some degree of alterations, you should allow plenty of time for 2 fitting appointments. Bridal attendants should bring shoes with the correct heel size to the fittings, as well as appropriate hosiery and slippers. **Chantilly Lace includes one free alteration with each dress!!**

Accessories – Chantilly Lace is a Full Service Salon with Shoes, Jewelry & accessories!!

Accessories, such as shoes, gloves, shawls, purses and hair combs should also be decided upon once the bridesmaid dresses have been selected. Leave plenty of time for shoes to be dyed and picked up. Also consider what color hosiery you want everyone to wear, as well as bras and slippers if applicable.