



Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment Wedding Planning Newsletter #24

Tuxedo Timeline

Keeping track of time is important when planning a wedding...Use the following formalwear timeline to maximize your schedule...

4-6 months before: Begin shopping for Groom's and Groomsmen's formalwear.

3 months before: Rent Groom's and Groomsmen's formalwear.

2-3 days before: Groom goes in for final formalwear fitting. Pick up formalwear. Assign your Best Man to make certain each groomsman goes in for a final fitting and picks up his formalwear.

Day after: Assign the Best Man or family member to organize the return of all rented formalwear.

Glossary

Understanding the various "languages" of certain wedding vendors can be challenging...we've provided a formalwear glossary to help familiarize you with some of the words you may hear...

Accessories

Ascot: A necktie with wide ends made of fabric like silk that is worn around the neck and looped under the chin. The double knot or loop is often held in place by a tack or pin.

Bow Tie: A formal short necktie tied in a bowknot.

Button Covers: In lieu of a bowtie or necktie, it is a decorative accessory that slips over the closed top button at the collar.

Cuff Links: Decorative pins that replace the standard button that fastens alongside buttons at the wrist.

Cummerbund: A wide band of cloth that is worn at the waist as a sash and is an evening attire alternative to a waistcoat.

Euro Tie: A traditional necktie that is worn with a winged collar with a portion of the tie around the neck being visible.

Four-in-Hand Tie: A necktie that is tied into a slipknot with the long ends overlapping in front vertically.

Pocket Squares: A square piece of linen, silk, or synthetic fabric worn in the left breast pocket of a tuxedo or suit jacket and is most often coordinated with the cummerbund and vest.

Studs: Decorative pins that replace the standard button that fastens alongside buttons.

Suspenders: Two supporting bands that are worn over the shoulders supporting the trousers.

Tie Tack: A decorative pin that is used to secure each long piece of the necktie.

Buttons

1-Button: A tuxedo or suit style with one-button closure at the center front.

2-Button: A tuxedo or suit style with two-button closure at the center front.

3-Button: A tuxedo or suit style with three-button closure at the center front.

4-Button: A tuxedo or suit style with four-button closure at the center front.

6-Button (Double-Breasted): A coat with half of the front laying over the other with a single row of button holes and a double row of buttons.

Jackets

Cutaway: Similar to a tailcoat, it is a formal long coat that has skirts that taper from the front waistline to form tails at the back.

Dinner: A formal evening jacket.

Double-Breasted: A coat with half of the front laying over the other with a single row of buttonholes and a double row of buttons.

Suit: A jacket and trouser of the same fabric. Since it's less formal than a tuxedo, it is good for daytime or informal weddings.

Tailcoat: A formal full dress coat that has two long tapering skirts at the back.

Waistcoat: A fitted, sleeveless garment or vest with a hem falling at the waistline and the buttons at the center front.

Lapel

Mandarin: A stand up collar on blouses, jackets, and dresses that is fashioned after the close fitting Asian collar. It is also called a "Nehru" for menswear jackets.

Notch: A coat or dress collar with one or two-pieces.

Peak: A two-piece lapel collar with an upward V-shaped peak attaching to neckline.

Shawl: A collar with one-piece that is turned down forming a continual line from the back of the neck to the front.

Shirts

Banded: Also known as a "Mandarin collar", it is a stand up collar that fastens at center front.

Crossover: A lay down collar that crosses and fastens at the center front of the shirt and is commonly worn with a button cover.

Lay down: A collar style with both a collar and a stand, which the collar lays down over.

Spread: A collar, similar to a “lay down collar”, with points that spread or lay open to accommodate a necktie or bowtie.

Wing: Also known as a “dandy collar”, it is a tailored collar stitched on a neckband and with spread points.

Slacks

Flat Front: A pleat less trouser with lays flat on the stomach.

Low-Rise: A waistline of a trouser that falls below the natural waistline that is usually common in fashion-forward suits and men’s casual wear.

Pleated: Frontal fabric folds on both sides of the trouser fly adding fullness to the front.

Stovepipe/Baggy: An extra full pant like that of a 1930’s “Zoot suit”.

Vest

Backless: Backless vests are adjustable at both the waist and the neck. It is a vest that can be adjusted at the waist and neck that shows underneath the front of a tailcoat, falling just below the natural waistline. The vest should be worn slightly below the waistline and should show below the front of a tailcoat.

Fullback: A full front and back bodice vest. It is an adjustable vest that can show underneath the front of a tailcoat, falling just below the natural waistline. This vest provides a more finished look if the jacket is removed.

Formalwear Styles

Understanding and identifying the various styles associated with weddings is important...Here is a look at Formalwear styles...

There are generally three styles of men’s wedding formalwear: **Traditional, Contemporary, and Thematic.**

Traditional: This look encompasses the classic black tuxedo with black bow tie on through top hats and tails. Usually this look is prevalent at formal and/or evening weddings.

Contemporary: This look includes semi-casual attire like suits or some styles of tuxedos. Check with your formalwear expert for their options. White dinner jackets are also considered semi-formal.

Thematic: This look can include ethnic dress, sports participation, etc. But remember, the most important “style” to remember is one that complements your bride’s choice of attire.

What to Look For

It is sometimes difficult to know what makes a quality wedding vendor...we've provided a guide to help you identify the key things to look for...

Inspecting the styles and selection of a men's formalwear company is important.

Things you should look for include:

Quality: The material and stitching should be in good condition and appearance. Look for brand names of fine manufacturers of men's wear.

Selection: The store should stock not only several styles, they should stock several variations and accessories for those styles. Accessories include cummerbunds, vests, shirts, cuff links, and studs.

Service: The Company should be able to fit out-of-town bridal party members by either going to another location of that national chain or having the measurements made at a qualified tailor and then sent in to the groom's formalwear store. The groomsmen should be able to be fitted for or pick up their formalwear when they come into the store.

Price: Cost is usually a consideration when it comes to any type of wedding expense and men's formalwear is no different. Finding the best possible formalwear at the most reasonable price is a solid objective. Some rental stores will offer multi-rental discounts or give you the groom's attire rental free. Check with your store.

New Trends

Wedding trends change and evolve with each New Year...We've provided a run-down of the newest, hottest trends in wedding formalwear...

Major fashion designers are now offering men's formalwear packages.

Vests continue to be a great way to personalize a tuxedo. They come in a variety of cuts, materials, and colors.

Dressing your groomsmen in different colored vests and ties is another new trend for individualizing your formalwear.

Another variation includes dressing the groomsmen in different-styled and/or colored jackets.

Thematic attire like traditional ethnic or religious clothing is an excellent ways to pay respect to your heritage. On a lighter note, thematic options can include your hobbies like scuba diving, climbing, beach themes or whatever your minds can create.

Package/Options

Understanding the typical wedding formalwear packages and options is important...Here is a look at what is usually available for weddings...

Package

A typical men's formalwear package consists of:

- ✓ Black Jacket
- ✓ Black Slacks
- ✓ Bow Tie
- ✓ Vest or
- ✓ Cummerbund
- ✓ White Shirt
- ✓ Cuff Links
- ✓ Studs

Options

Shoes are usually an additional rental item and not included in the formalwear package. Most formalwear stores offer a couple of styles of footwear for rent.

Jackets with tails are generally more expensive than regular cut jackets. Tails are usually associated with formal evening weddings.

Accessories like top hats, canes, and ascots are extra but are very memorable additions to a formal wedding affair.

Keys to Success

Here are some expert tips to make sure your wedding formalwear experience is the best it possibly can be...

Begin considering your formalwear options as early as six months in advance of your wedding. Once your bride has selected her gown, you can begin your process. If your wedding day falls during high school prom season between April and July then you will want to reserve your formalwear well in advance of your wedding day. Bring in a color swatch, or sample, of the bridal gown when you go to pick out the colors of your formalwear.

Pay proper attention to seasonal and time of day traditions for formalwear. Winter events usually have dark colors. Spring and Summer events will have lighter colors.

An afternoon event tends to have gray colors. An evening event has darker colors.

If you wear a tuxedo at least two to three times a year then you should consider buying a tuxedo rather than renting.

The groom's tuxedo or formalwear should stand out from those of his groomsmen through the use of a different colored vest, cummerbund, tie or jacket.

If you rent from the same store for everything, see if you can get a per rental discount or get your groom's rental for free.

The boutonniere is pinned to the buttonhole on the left lapel.

Designate someone, usually the Best Man, to collect all the tuxedos and return them after the ceremony.

Formalwear Questions

When you meet with your prospective wedding formalwear specialist, you'll want to ask all the right questions...we've provided a list of what you should make sure to ask when you first speak with them about your wedding...This will give you a good indication of their level of service...

1. Do you stock formalwear options I can try on? We recommend choosing a company that has a large selection of tuxedos in-store.

2. How many years has your store been in business? We suggest choosing a company that has been in business a minimum of five years.

3. What's the typical starting price for a tuxedo rental?

4. Do you have package deals if we rent a certain amount of tuxedos?

5. What is included in a full rental package?

6. Do you sell tuxedos? If so, how much do you charge?

7. Do you offer last-minute alterations? We recommend choosing a company that can do in-store alterations.

8. When should I come back for a final fitting?

9. What brands of formalwear do you stock?

10. Are you open on Sundays for a return of rental items?

11. How do you handle damaged or lost tuxedos?

Things to Avoid

Knowing the pitfalls and traps ahead of time can help save you money, time, and your sanity...Here's a list of things to avoid when planning your wedding formalwear...

- ✓ When wearing a cummerbund, avoid pointing the pleats down. They should face upwards.
- ✓ Make sure the tips of a wing-collared shirt are not flapping loosely in front of the tie.
- ✓ They should be tucked behind the bow tie.

- ✓ Avoid any other colored socks than black for tuxedos.
- ✓ If your wedding ceremony and reception will be outdoors during the hot summer you may want to avoid having a full-cut vest. A lower cut vest would be cooler over the course of the day.
- ✓ If you have any out-of-town wedding party members that will be renting from the same men's formalwear store, make certain that they don't wait until the last minute to send in their measurements. Have them go to another location of your national men's formalwear supplier or professional tailor to get their measurements and then send them to your store. Also, make sure to have them go in for a fitting at the store once they've arrived. This will allow for any alterations that may be needed.
- ✓ Try not to leave it up to each wedding party member to return the rented formalwear.
- ✓ Assign your Best Man to collect all of the tuxedos and return them all at once.

References

Checking the reputation, credentials, and service record of a prospective wedding formalwear shop is important before you use their services...

There are several resources available to check the references of a particular men's wedding formalwear specialist:

- ✓ Family and friends who have recently been married.
- ✓ Better Business Bureau (B.B.B.).
- ✓ Local Resorts/Country Clubs.
- ✓ Other local wedding vendors.

Contract/Payment

Knowing what to include in a contract with a wedding formalwear shop is important...We've created a list of important points to consider...

Contract

- Name and contact information for you and the formal wear store.
- Your wedding date.
- Detailed description of what you're renting including: Names of all groomsmen,
- Designer/manufacturer's name, style numbers, sizes, colors, fabrics, accessories, and number of tuxedos ordered.
- Pickup date.
- Return date.
- Total price.
- Late return fee.
- Deposit amount due.
- Balance and date due.
- Cancellation and refund policy.
- Name of acceptable substitute in case of emergency.
- Salesperson's signature
- Your signatures.

Payment

Most wedding formalwear rental stores require full payment before your wedding day. Some will ask for a 50% deposit upon booking and the remaining 50% due before your wedding day.

Confirm the cancellation policy with the formalwear rental store before signing the contract and putting down a deposit.

Backup Plans

Having a “Plan B” is always a good idea when it comes to planning your wedding...Here’s a look at some ways to cover your bases...

It is important to have contingency plans in place for backup formalwear, rental shops, and tailors.

Backup Formalwear: In case of manufacturer or designer problems, it is good to have alternative formalwear in mind, especially those that are easy to alter.

Backup Rental Shop: Keep tabs on other formalwear rental stores in your area in case of a last minute change of wedding formalwear plans, especially if your bride has a late change in gown.

Backup Tailor: If you pickup your formalwear from the rental shop but need a last minute alteration, find a tailor who specializes in formalwear.

Be sure to address the contingency plans in your written contract.

Checklists

Timeline

- Shop for Formalwear
- Rent Formalwear
- Purchase Formalwear
- Final Fitting for Groom
- Final Fittings for Groomsmen
- Return Formalwear Rentals

Styles

- Traditional Style
- Contemporary Style
- Thematic Style
- Complement Bridal Attire
- Quality Formalwear

What to Look For

- Good Service
- Good Price
- Multi-rental Discount
- Free Groom’s Rental
- Major Label Tuxedos

New Trends

- Determine Groom's Vest Style & Color
- Determine Groomsmen's Vest Style & Color
- Determine Groom's Jacket Style & Color
- Thematic Attire

Packages/Options

- Typical Formalwear Package
- Determine Shoe Style
- Rent Shoes
- Purchase Shoes
- Use Own Shoes
- Jacket with Tails
- Top Hat & Cane

Keys to Success

- Research Formalwear Options
- Bring in Bridal Gown Swatch
- Winter Colors
- Spring/Summer Colors
- Morning Colors
- Evening Colors
- Reserve Formalwear
- Multiple Rental Discount
- Purchase Formalwear

Things to Watch for

- Groom's Vest & Tie Color
- Groomsmen's Vest & Tie Color
- Boutonniere on Left Lapel
- Best Man to Return Rentals
- Cummerbund Pleats Up
- Collar Wing Tips behind Tie
- Black Socks
- Determine Vest Cut
- Out-of-Town Wedding Party Members' Measurements
- Assign Best Man to Return Tuxedos

Resources/References

- Family References
- Friend References
- Check BBB/Visit BBB online
- Check with Resorts and Country Clubs
- Check with Other Vendors
- Check with Past Clients

Contract/Payment

- Review Contract
- Revise Contract
- Sign Contract
- Pay Deposit

- Pay Remaining Balance

Backup Plans

- Backup Formalwear
- Backup Rental Shop
- Backup Tailor

Groom's Formalwear Budget = _____

Groomsmen's Formalwear Budget = _____

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This guide is provided by Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment to assist new couples as they navigate their way through the year leading up to their wedding day. Included are only suggestions and ultimate decisions need to be made by the couple. Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment is not responsible for negative outcomes as a result of following guidelines.