

# Tuxedo Trends & Tips

E. Darlene Treadwell, Weddings and More – pg. 8

Tuxedo styles have changed over the years as suit makers have endeavored to impress grooms under 30 who are fashion conscious with diverse taste. Gone are the days when a groom wore a simple black tuxedo with a matching classic cummerbund and bow tie. Today, men have hundreds of formalwear styles to choose from and many tuxedo packages available.



*Here are some tips to help select a terrific tuxedo for your wedding:*

## Rent or Buy?

The rule of thumb is, if you plan on wearing the tuxedo two or more times each year, you should consider buying it. You will find that you will wear it more than you thought you would. It's custom altered to fit you and you don't have to worry about returning it. Some tuxedo rental places also sell them at a reasonable price. You should buy a traditional tuxedo. A single-breasted peak-lapel tuxedo is the most traditional and the most useful. Don't wait until the last minute to rent because a particular style you want may need to be special ordered and some styles may not come in all of the groomsmen's sizes.

## Who Pays?

Everyone pays for his own tuxedo rental. Some places offer the groom's free with the rental of the groomsmen, ushers, fathers, etc.

## What about rentals for out-of-town guys?

Most formalwear stores are part of a national chain and allow groomsmen to stop by any of the same stores near them to be formally measured from that location. Some stores allow tuxedos ordered based on the information that the men provide (shirt size, height, weight, shoe size, etc.) without their measurements being taken in person. Returns can be tricky. Check the return policy for the store you order from. Some want them to be returned the day after the wedding or late fees will apply. All tuxedos can be given to one "return person" if designated in advance.

## What about shoes?

Most formal shoes are patent leather. If you don't like those shiny slip-ons that come with the tuxedos, and you want to buy your own shoes, be sure to tell the shoe salesman that you are looking for shoes to wear with a tuxedo. They should be black, with a plain toe. Wingtips are NOT acceptable.

## Does the tuxedo fit right?

Your arms should move easily, without that tight, pulling sensation across your back. The hem of the jacket should reach the middle of your fingers. About a half-inch of your shirt cuff should show at the bottom of the jacket's sleeve. Your pants should fall just to the backs of your heels and break slightly over the tops of your shoes. Always check the fit of your tuxedo, shirt, and shoes before the morning of your wedding day.

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