



## Guide to Buying a Wedding Dress Online

### Before You Buy:

- 1) Set a budget. You can decide on a price for just the dress OR the dress, accessories, and alterations. Either way, make sure you are clear on what you'll be spending because it can add up quickly.
- 2) Know the sellers policies. Read the sellers policies before you purchase a dress online. We encourage everyone to be thorough with their disclosures, clearly stating if they accept returns. Do not purchase the dress if you have unanswered questions. It's important to be confident about your purchase and satisfied with the seller's responses and policies. Keep in mind its general policy when purchasing a dress from any physical bridal store that returns are not accepted, so...
- 3) Don't rush. Time the purchase of your dress 6-8 months before your wedding. Never buy a dress before you have confirmed the location and date of your wedding. The style, feel, and material will all be dictated by season and location. For example, your dress would be light and whimsical if you get married on the beach as opposed to wearing a more formal gown and veil in a church setting. Keep in mind that you will need time for alternations, at least two appointments, after you have purchased the dress so pay careful attention to the timeline of purchasing your dress.
- 4) Research. Look through magazines, surf the web, and go to your local bridal shop for inspiration. You'll find you are drawn to a specific designer, style, and fabric that make you feel like you are the only one in the room. Take notes and check back on Something Wedding for similar dresses to what you found while researching for half the price. That's the beauty of Something Wedding! You still get to have fun in the bridal shop with your Mom and Sisters, but the difference in price tags between the store and our marketplace will leave room to upgrade to a whirlpool suite on your honeymoon!

### Making Sense of Size:

- 1) Perfection. Generally, the dress you order isn't going to fit perfectly. But, to get it fitting as close to your size as possible, check the seller's 'clothing size' and compare with the 'dress size.'
- 2) We know. You might as well disclose your weight if you are being asked to publicize your clothing size. But let's get real- we need full disclosures in order to buy the right dress online.

For example, the seller's 'clothing size' might be a 10 but the dress size is 12. Dress sizes vary by designer. You can work with a dress that's too big, but you'll have to turn a dress that's too small into curtains because there's not much that be done to add a few inches.

- 3) Length. It's just as important to know how long the dress is. You'll need to add height if you are wearing heels.
- 4) Know your measurements. If a bride has already had her dress altered to her body size, make sure to check her measurements against yours. Be sure to include bust, hips, and waist. To do this, you can go to a tailor or do it yourself. If you do it yourself, measure twice. You'll want to be sure of your measurements.

#### Alterations:

- 1) Expand your search. A professional tailor can alter just about anything. Sleeves can be added or removed, busts can be modified, and waists can be taken in. Small changes can give big results.
- 2) Floor model. Whether you buy a dress from the bridal shop or online, you'll have to have alterations done. You are measured in the store and your order is sent to the manufacturer. They don't custom make your dress. They assemble according to the closest size against your measurements. So, no matter the source of the purchase, you'll require alterations.
- 3) Professional. Make sure you choose a professional seamstress or tailor who specializes in altering wedding gowns.