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## What's Next?

Congratulations on choosing your wedding gown! We are looking forward to working with you as you prepare for your wedding day.

We know that our brides have lots of questions regarding the wedding gown fitting process and we have tried to address many of them here. Please review this information carefully and keep it in a handy place for future reference. Feel free to contact us at **860.669.4596** with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Now that you have chosen your gown, here is what you need to know:

- **GOWN:** In most cases, **your gown will arrive at The White Dress by the shore about 4 months prior your wedding** (unless we have discussed another timeline with you because of a rush, muslin fitting or other special circumstance). We will call you as soon as your gown arrives in the store to let you know it is here, and to make arrangements for your fittings. The balance of the gown is due upon the gowns arrival.
- **VEILS & JEWELRY:** If you have not yet chosen your veil and jewelry, it's best to schedule an appointment **prior to** your first fitting so that you can make your decision with enough time to have the accessories available to you for your final fitting.
- **SHOES:** **When you come to your first fitting it is required that you bring the actual shoes you will wear at your wedding.** The hem is pinned in the initial fitting so it is vital that your shoes are available. If for some reason you do not have your shoes for the first fitting, we may have to reschedule the fitting. So get shopping!
- **UNDERGARMENTS:** **At the first fitting you will also need to bring whatever undergarments you'll be wearing on your wedding day (bra, spanx, etc.).** Even if you are thinking of using bust cups, we ask that you bring a few returnable bra options to try with your gown. Try to take into account the bustline, back neckline and waistline of your gown. If you have a natural waist dress, you will want a bra that ends at your natural waist or above. If you have a gown made out of a sheer material, you will want to avoid bras that have heavy boning or visible seams.

**\*\*To meet your undergarment needs, we can refer you to our specialist Josie at Beneath the Gown. Josie has a bridal lingerie boutique situated in The White Dress by the shore. She can be reached for a consultation at 860-304-7399. \*\***

Here's how the alteration process works:

- **PROCESS: Gown fittings take place on Thursdays (12pm to 7pm) and Fridays (10am to 4pm). Alterations never take place on weekends at The White Dress by the shore.** Please understand that the fitting schedule at The White Dress by the shore is subject to change. Generally, your first fitting will be about 3 months before the wedding, and the final fitting will take place 1-2 weeks in advance of the big day. When your gown arrives we will call you to schedule all of your fittings in advance. On average there are usually 4 visits- 3 fittings and a final pick up appointment.  
\*\*\*If you require a Saturday fitting or cannot make the fitting times at The White Dress by the shore we can refer you to a seamstress that can accommodate your schedule\*\*\*
- **FIRST FITTING:** The first fitting is what we call a "working" fitting. The focus of the fitting is for our seamstress to pin the dress and work with you to determine hem length and bustle preferences. We don't recommend assessing jewelry and veils at this time. Accessory evaluations are better saved for the next fitting, or an additional appointment before the fit process. We recommend that separate appointments are scheduled for accessory selection. **Shoes and undergarments are required for this fitting.**
- **SECOND FITTING:** The second fitting gives you an opportunity to assess the fit of your altered gown and ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have about the fit of your gown. **Make sure you bring your shoes and undergarments again as you will need to check the hem length and make sure your foundation garments coordinate well with the gown's fit.** If there are tweaks or changes that need to be made, they will be dealt with during this fitting or an additional fitting appointment will be scheduled. The second fitting is also an opportunity to try on your jewelry, veil and accessories with your gown so that you can see the complete 'look'.
- After your last fitting, we will schedule a time for you to pick up your gown and any other accessories we are holding in the store. **Pressed gowns can be picked up on Thursdays and Fridays.** Our seamstress will press or steam your gown in advance of your pick-up appointment.
  - If your wedding is local, it's often a good idea to bring the gown directly to wherever you will be getting dressed or to a place that it will be safe and sound. We usually prefer it to hang on the back of a door or closet so that it will not be disturbed.
  - If your wedding is out of town, many brides make arrangements to carry their gown with them to the wedding. Alternatively, if you want to ship the dress to the location of your wedding, we'd be happy to box the gown up for you after the final fitting. We do not ship gowns from The White Dress by the shore, but can make arrangements for you with our local UPS store.

As always, please feel free to be in touch with any additional questions. It is our goal to make your gown shopping experience here at The White Dress by the shore to be unlike anything you would have imagined. **Congratulations and go out and celebrate!**

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