



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 many 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:

- **BRIDAL:** 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 gown's arrival. No fittings will be scheduled until the gown balance has been paid. If you are going to Modern Trousseau for muslin fittings, your gown balance is due upon your first garment fitting.**

If you live out-of-town and require specific dates for your fittings, we recommend that we set up your fittings in advance of your gown's arrival to ensure that we can accommodate your date requests.

- **RUSH ORDERS:** We may be able to accommodate shortened lead-times with a rush fee. All rushes require designer's approval. Rush deliveries are often over a two week delivery period and do not have a specific in-store date. We appreciate your patience while waiting for your rush order to arrive. Please note that if you have placed a rush order with us, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to perform your alterations, particularly during peak bridal season. As always, we can refer you to a seamstress in our referral network if we cannot accommodate your alterations in-house.
- **MAIDS:** Our in-house seamstresses are highly skilled bridal specialists. For convenience to your bridesmaids and in order to save them money, we have created a network of out of house seamstresses to whom we can refer them to for their bridesmaid

alterations. We do offer bridesmaid alterations here; however, our average alteration fee is \$125.

- **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 fittings.
- **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 often 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.)**

****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**.****

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.

Here's how the alteration process works:

- **PROCESS:** **Gown fittings take place on Thursdays (12pm to 7pm) and Fridays (10am to 4pm). Alterations **DO NOT** 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.
- Because of the superior level of service that we provide during our fittings and the amount of time that is spent with each gown, both during the fittings and in the sewing process, our alterations fees average as follows (*note: these are only estimates, as we only charge for those alterations that need to be done to the gown*):

Bridal gowns \$550-\$800
Bridal alternatives \$300- \$500
Bridesmaids \$125 average
Mother of the occasion \$150-\$200

These estimates include all fittings and final pressing and packaging at your pick-up appointment.

***If these estimates are outside of your budget or your schedule does not correspond with our days for fittings, we have developed a network of reputable seamstresses to whom we can refer you, that may be better able to accommodate your schedule and budget.

We are happy to have one of our in-house seamstresses provide you with a complimentary estimate for alterations once your gown arrives. ***please note that this would take place separately from your 1st fitting.*

Here is what to expect during each of your fittings:

- **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 the overall look of the gown, and hem length. We don’t recommend assessing jewelry and veils at this time. We recommend that separate appointments are scheduled for accessory selection. **Shoes and undergarments are required for this fitting.**

At the first fitting the seamstress will determine the amount of work that is required for the gown and you will be asked to pay for your alterations in their entirety at that time. *Note: additional fees may be incurred if weight is lost after the first fitting or if further design changes are made in subsequent fittings.*

- **SECOND FITTING:** The second fitting gives you an opportunity to assess the overall fit of your altered gown and ask any questions or raise any concerns that you may have. The bustle selection is made and pinned at this fitting. **Make sure that 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 previously selected jewelry, veil and accessories with your gown so that you can see the complete ‘look’.
- **THIRD FITTING:** At the third fitting (if one is necessary) the hem and bustle are checked for accuracy and any final ‘tweaks’ to the gown are made. **Shoes and undergarments are essential for this fitting.**
- **FINAL FITTING/PICK UP:** At this appointment, you will try on the gown one last time to ensure that the fit of the gown and length are perfect. This is the perfect opportunity

for a member of your bridal party to practice your bustle and to review the dressing process. We will provide you with written dressing and bustling instructions at this fitting.

- While you wait, our seamstress will press or steam your gown and prepare it for pickup.
 - 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 in a 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. We can assist you in packing your wedding gown into a carry-on bag. 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.
 - Don't forget to ask about the gown cleaning and preservation service that we offer. You will save \$75 if you pay for the service before your wedding!

If your gown order entails a muslin at The White Dress by the shore, here is what you can expect:

- **MUSLIN FITTING:** Your gown will be in muslin form at this fitting. Shoes and the undergarments that you plan to wear with your gown are **REQUIRED** for this fitting. The seamstress will pin and take notes directly on the muslin. We will also take photos of you in your muslin to send to the designer.
- **GARMENT FITTING:** It will take approximately 4 months for your gown to arrive after the muslin fitting. Once the garment arrives we will fit the gown to you. If no weight is lost, there should be minimal pinning that needs to be done at this fitting.

If weight is lost from the time of the muslin fitting, 1-3 fittings may be required.

****Please note that alterations fees post muslin run between \$200 and \$400, depending on weight loss. Hem adjustments and a bustle are always required post-muslin and will be charged for accordingly.**

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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