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WEDDING GOWN SILHOUETTES

GOWNS 101

Here is a glossary of wedding dress terms to help you determine what type gown you would like.

1. Determine the silhouette that works best with your figure and that you prefer.

Silhouettes:



A-line: fitted at the bodice and flows out to the ground, with an unbroken line (resembling the outline of an uppercase A).



Ballgown: fitted at the bodice and has a waistline that leads to a full skirt



Mermaid: fits closely to the body from the chest to the knee, then flares out to the hem



Sheath: fits very closely to the contours of the body. Has a straight skirt with no waist



Trumpet: fits closely to the body until the mid hip and then widens gradually to the hem. (Resembling the mouth of a trumpet). Often confused with mermaid, but trumpet flairs from

2. Determine the neckline that works best with your figure and that you prefer.

Necklines:



Square: has a straight horizontal bodice that meets with straps in a 90 degree angle



V-neck: dips down in a V-shape



Scoop: U shaped neckline with varying depth



Sweetheart: neckline is shaped like the top half of a heart



One Shoulder: strap across one shoulder only



Sheer: semi sheer net or lace



High Neck: features high neck/t-shirt neckline



Bateau: (boat neck): follows the curve of the collarbone to the very tip of shoulders



Strapless slight curve: neckline curves slightly up or down with no straps



Off the Shoulder: sits below the shoulders and highlights the collar bone and shoulders



Halter: has straps that wrap around the back of the neck



Queen Ann: high rising collar at the back of neckline that sculpts low across the chest



Strapless straight across: straight across neckline with no curves and no straps



Strapless sweetheart: neckline is shaped like the top half of a heart

3. Determine the waistline that works best with your figure and that you prefer.

Waistlines



Basque Waist: waistline features a low U or V shape



Dropped Waist: features a waist line below the natural waist at the mid hip



Empire: has a raised waistline that sits just below the bust, from which the rest of the dress flows down to the hem



Natural Waist: waist line that hits at the natural waist (the indentation between the hips and the rib-cage)



Princess: A-line silhouette with vertical seams down the front

4. Determine the sleeve style that works best with your figure and that you prefer.

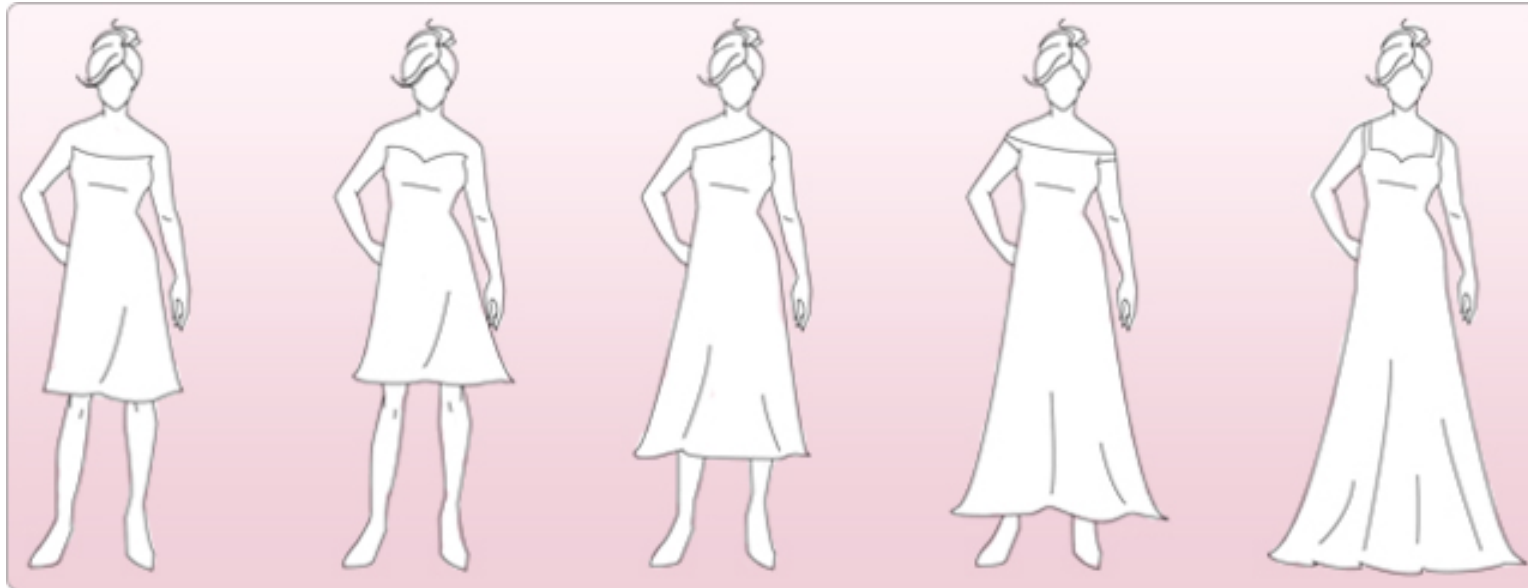
Sleeve Style:



Strapless Spaghetti Straps Straps Sleeveless Cap Sleeve Short Sleeve 3/4 Sleeve Long Sleeve

5. Determine the dress length that works best with your figure and that you prefer.

Dress Length:



Knee Length

Above Knee

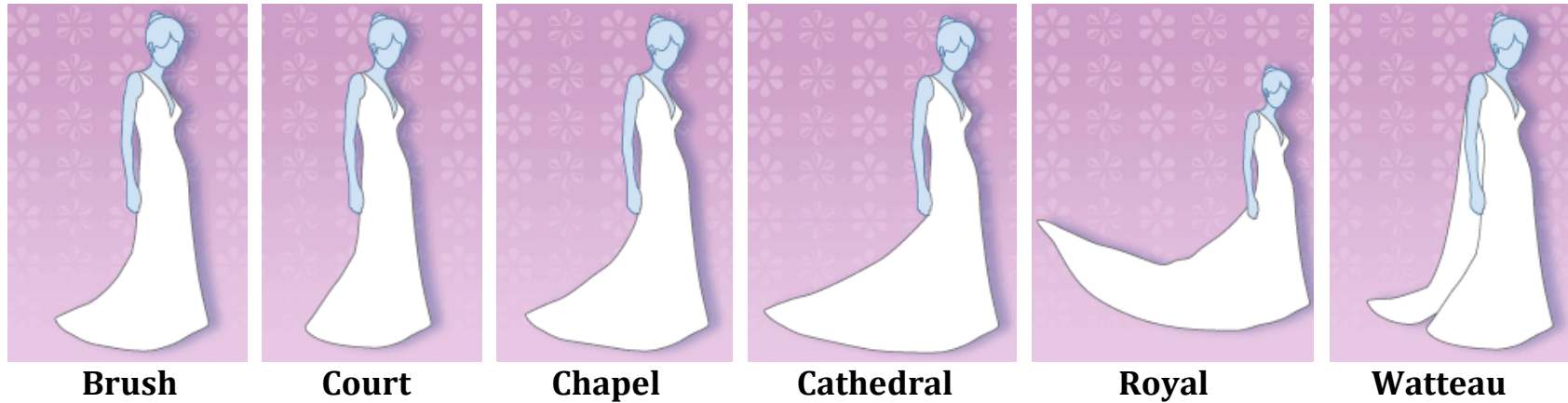
Tea Length

Ankle Length

Floor Length

6. Determine if you want a train and which length works best with your gown and location logistics of your wedding.

Trains:



Brush: (also called Sweep) is the shortest trains -usually, the back hem is only a few inches lower than the front hem

Court: slightly longer than the brush, extending approximately 3 feet behind the waist

Chapel Length: generally 4 feet from the waistline

Cathedral Length Train: generally 7 1/2 feet from the waistline

Royal Length Train: generally 10 feet from the waistline

Watteau Length Train: generally 10 feet from the waistline

7. Determine what fabric you want it in, then which weave of fabric. Your budget as well as style of gown will dictate some of this decision.

Fabrics:

A wedding dress can be made from either silk or polyester. How the fiber is woven determines if the dress is:

Weave:

Charmeuse: lightweight, semi-lustrous soft, is satin-like to the touch

Chiffon: Delicate, sheer, and transparent, with a soft finish. Often layered because of its transparency

Crepe: Light, soft, and thin, with a crinkled surface

Duchesse Satin: A lightweight hybrid of silk or polyester and rayon woven into a satin finish

Dupioni: A finish similar to shantung, but with thicker, coarser fibers, and a slight sheen

Georgette: Sheer and lightweight fabric with a crepe surface

Mikado: A brand of blended fibers, usually heavier than 100-percent silk

Organza: Crisp and sheer like chiffon, with a stiffer texture similar, but more flowing than tulle

Satin: heavy and smooth with a high sheen on one side

Shantung: Similar to a raw silk, characterized by its rough/nubby texture

Taffeta: Crisp and smooth, with a slight rib

Tulle: Netting (just like ballerina tutus)