



Mother's Wedding Wear

On the occasion of her child's wedding, every mother wants to look stylish—beautifully dressed and perfectly coifed. After the bridal and attendants' gowns are chosen, the bride should discuss her preferences of lengths, colors and styles with both mothers. Some brides prefer mothers' gowns to be shades of color that blend with those of the attendants; some prefer colors that contrast, but do not conflict.

A few rules apply: Mothers' gowns should never be longer than the bride's or attendants' gowns. They should not be more formal or more lavishly decorated than the bride's gown. The bride's mother chooses her gown first, and then lets the groom's mother know the color so she will not choose the same shade.

Many specialty shops feature lovely gowns appropriate for mothers' and grandmothers' wedding wear that can be worn again to a formal party or charity ball. Depending upon the formality of the wedding, choices include simple taffeta suits, short cocktail dresses, tea or waltz length, creations of lace, and floor length sequined gowns.

Shops specializing in petite fashions or larger size fashions will generally have the best selections for mothers who are other than average in height and weight. Shop with someone whose judgment you can trust to help you choose the style and color that is best for you.

The dress you choose may call for special undergarments to be fitted by a professional. Shoes should be dyed to match your gown. Choose your jewelry and purse carefully to complement your gown (especially if it has pearls, beads, or sequins).