

DRESSED,
STYLED, *and*
DOWN *the* AISLE

Becoming a Stylish Bride

CHAPTER 09

7 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR FITTER

brought to you by

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Selecting a fitter for your wedding dress alterations is one of the most important decisions you make when it comes to your dress. If it's offered, we recommend that you use the in-house fitter at the store where you purchased your dress. The problem is that fewer and fewer salons have them on staff. For the ones that don't, they will provide you with a list of referrals, but it can be difficult to know which one is the right fit for you. So **here are our seven questions that you should ask them before hiring them:**



1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH WEDDING DRESSES?

This is important because wedding dresses are different from other types of garments and you want someone who has a **lot of experience** working with them.

2. HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO YOU START THE FITTINGS?

Beginning your fittings at the right time is a critical part of the process, and **two months before the wedding** is the sweet spot here. If you plan on toning up or slimming down (not that you need to of course!) starting the fittings too early and having to continuously take it in can be bad for the dress and your schedule. However, if you start too late, it can be stressful and feel rushed. Worse, the fitter may not have time to do the best job.

3. HOW MANY FITTINGS DO YOU TYPICALLY HAVE?

Typically we have **three wedding dress fittings** as outlined in the book. You want to make sure that the fitter you are hiring works in the same way and that you will have plenty of time to take the process **step by step**.

4. WHEN DO YOU LIKE TO DO THE FINAL FITTING?

This one can vary a lot, but our recommendation is **10 days before the wedding** if you are not shipping the dress, and **two weeks** if you are. I've heard of some fitters suggesting that you should be finished a month in advance, and that is way too early if your shape is changing.

5. WILL YOU BASTE THE FABRIC IN BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND FITTINGS BEFORE CUTTING IT?

Basting the fabric means doing the sewing part of the work, but **not** cutting the excess fabric in case something needs to be adjusted. For example, the hem of your dress should be basted so that you can test walking with the length before it's finalized.



6. WHAT IS YOUR PRICING STRUCTURE AND AN AVERAGE COST FOR ALTERATIONS?

This is another example of **everyone doing it a little differently**. Sometimes there is a minimum fee, sometimes it's based on the amount of work, but they should be able to give you a range of what it will cost. At the minimum, you will need the length shortened and a bustle put in if you have any train at all.

7. WHEN THE FITTINGS ARE DONE, HOW DO YOU PACK YOUR DRESS?

You want to make sure that the dress is **pressed and packed** to protect it as you transport it to your venue, whether that's by shipping or driving it. The bust should be packed so it keeps its shape and doesn't collapse, there should be clear plastic over the whole thing, and then a garment bag over that. If you are shipping it, it then is folded and goes into a very large box.