

Thank You

Congratulations and thank you for choosing
Charlotte's to be part of your wedding.

As a Charlotte's Bride You Receive:

10-15% off bridesmaid gowns

10% off mothers' gowns

10% off flower girl dresses

10 % off invitations

Discounted steam and press

Discounted gown preservation



Local Seamstresses

Most formal wear needs some alteration in order to fit perfectly. The seamstresses below specialize in bridal alterations and can put the finishing touches on your gown. Even though none of them work for Charlotte's Weddings & More we feel comfortable including them on this list because they've helped thousands of our brides.

Alterations by Lorraine

Seamstress – Lorraine Huey

Phone – 503-521-0469

Meets clients at Charlotte's Weddings & More

Kathi's Stitchery

Seamstress – Kathi

Phone – 503-661-6138

Meets clients at her place of business

Norma at Vermont Cleaners

Seamstress – Norma

Phone – 503-246-9466

Meets clients at Vermont Cleaners

Sewing Solutions

Seamstress – Kim Tricky

Phone – 503-788-5280

Meets clients at the Bridal Loft

Alteration tips

Budget for alteration costs – On average wedding gown alterations cost \$100 - \$300

Schedule your appointment for alterations 6 – 8 weeks prior to your wedding

Bring your shoes, slip, bra and all other undergarments to all of your fittings

Mother of the Bride & Groom Attire

In the midst of all the wedding planning, moms have a tendency to forget about themselves and what they are going to wear to the wedding. There are a few simple tips to help moms, grandmas and aunts feel their best at the wedding too.

Get an early start. Start shopping and trying things on sooner than later. Even if you aren't at your ideal size... it's a great idea to see what you like on your body type. Take suggestions from the experts. Try things on that may not appeal to you while on the hanger... the gown could be far more flattering on your body.

Don't be afraid of color. Black may make you feel slimmer but it doesn't photograph nearly as well as color. Wear a color that you normally wear and, remember, it doesn't have to completely coordinate with the color scheme of the wedding. As long as you're in the same color family it will all look great together.

If you don't find a complete ensemble, it's always fun to mix and match. There are bridesmaid dresses where you can add a colored sash, shawl or fun jacket. This is ideal if you want something less formal. You can really make the outfit your own.

Allow 3-5 months for ordering. This ensures plenty of time for any alterations that may need to be done. So, when the bridesmaid party starts shopping for dresses, moms should start as well. If you are a late shopper don't worry... there are options such as rushing a gown and pulling a gown out of the designer's stock so it ships to us within a week or two.



Bridal Attire Check List & Time Line



Six to Twelve months before wedding

- Find and order the perfect gown
- Start to look at bridesmaid gowns and mother of the bride gowns

Four to Five months before wedding

- Order flower girl dresses
- Order bridesmaid gowns
- Order mother of the bride and mother of the groom gowns
- Call for estimated delivery date for wedding gown

Three to Four months before wedding

- Order invitations
- Choose and order bra and petticoat
- Order shoes

Two to Three months before wedding

- Wedding gown should be in soon – Set up appointment to try on new gown
- Book appointment with seamstress for wedding gown and bridesmaid gown alterations
- Choose veil and jewelry

One to Two months before wedding

- Have wedding gown and bridesmaid gowns altered
- Set up an appointment with Charlotte's to have gowns pressed
- Finalize men's formal wear – Tuxedo rentals

Week before wedding

- Drop gowns off for pressing

Week of wedding

- Pick up pressed wedding gown on scheduled date
- Pick up tuxedo rentals
- Relax and enjoy this exciting week!

After the wedding

- Drop wedding gown off at Charlotte's Weddings for gown preservation

Ordering Bridesmaid Gowns



The two most important aspects of ordering bridesmaid dresses are organization and timing.

Where to start:

Once you have chosen the perfect bridesmaid dress we ask that you register the gown, color, and all your bridesmaid names with us. Next, please have each bridesmaid contact us with her requested size. Size must be requested in writing and we will require a signed bridesmaid contract and a deposit of 50% in order to process her order. (A printable copy of the bridesmaid contract is available on our website and can be faxed or mailed to us.) Lastly, we ask that you finalize your order with us prior to the order being placed with the designer. Please note: we order each bridesmaid group all at once to ensure they are all made with fabric from the same dye lot. We will only place your order with the designer when we have signed contracts and deposits for each of your bridesmaids and the bride has approved the final order. All of the above steps must be completed four months prior to the wedding or event day or the order will not be processed without a rush.

When to order:

Most bridesmaid manufacturers take twelve weeks to produce a dress. We strongly advise you to order your bridesmaid dress at least five months prior to the wedding. If you have less than four months until the wedding, we will not take the order without a rush.

Rushes:

Any order placed with less than four months prior to the event date is required to upgrade to a rush. The fee for a rush varies by designer and is approximately \$50 or less per gown. This fee ensures that we can get the dresses here prior to the wedding and will make your gowns a priority with the designer. We cannot guarantee delivery on orders placed less than eight weeks prior to the event date.



Getting measured:

Measurements should be done at a reputable bridal salon. Measurements should be taken in the undergarments that will be worn with the dress and never over heavy clothing. If the measurements are not accurate, the bridesmaid may incur considerable alteration costs. We require bust, waist, hip and height measurements.

Choosing a size:

Select the size by comparing the measurements to the designer's size chart. If your measurements fall between sizes it is recommended to go with the larger size. It is easier and less costly to make a gown smaller than larger. It is normal to fall between sizes and to fall into a size one to two sizes larger than your normal dress size. If you are not sure what size to order call us and we will be happy to offer our advice. The final decision on what size to order is the responsibility of the bridesmaid and bride. Our designers do not allow exchanges or returns based on size because the gowns are cut to order. All sales are final.

If you have a pregnant bridesmaid we suggest she order 1-2 sizes larger than she currently measures into or a maternity style depending on how far along she'll be at the time of the wedding.

The lengths on most bridesmaid gowns are cut for someone who is 5'8" or 5'9". If the bridesmaid is taller than 5'8" please discuss the option of extra length. Most designers add an additional 5 inches, not a specific length, requiring the bridesmaid to have the additional length hemmed. The cost of extra length varies by designer.

Most designers will accommodate women up to a size 28. Expect additional charges for sizes over a size 16.

Shipping to the bridesmaids:

Charlotte's will ship dresses to bridesmaids for \$40 per box. Maximum shipping time is two weeks. We ask that the bride, whenever possible, inspect the dress(es) prior to shipping. Please indicate the address you would like the dress shipped to on the bridesmaid contract.

Alterations and pressing:

Bridesmaid dresses do not come ready to wear. Most gowns will need to be altered and pressed. The cost for alterations and pressing is not included in the cost of the gown. Charlotte's does not have an in-house seamstress. A list of suggested seamstresses is available upon request.