

Choosing your veil

After you've found the right wedding dress, you need to find the right veil. . .

Words: Lynsey at The Wedding Veil Shop, www.theweddingveilshop.co.uk



The length of veil you choose depends greatly on the style of your wedding, your venue and, of course, the dress itself. The two most popular veil lengths chosen by brides at the moment are fingertip (or hip) length and cathedral length. You may notice on designer's descriptions of their gowns that the lengths of their trains are described as chapel length or cathedral length. A chapel length dress has approximately 2-3 feet of fabric on the floor and a cathedral length would have around 4 feet. A cathedral length veil would therefore be the same length as your train or perhaps even extending slightly past it to show the detail. A long veil such as this is very dramatic and definitely has the wow factor but can be quite cumbersome, especially when it comes to sitting down for your meal or dancing at your evening reception. This is why many brides choose to take it off at this point during the day or alternatively have

the longer tier made detachable. This is so you not only have a different look for the evening, but you still look very bridal when your evening guests arrive and they can still get a glimpse of you as 'the bride', even though they may not have been present at the ceremony earlier in the day.



Today's bride wears almost anything but white (well, pure brilliant white anyway), the most popular dress colours at the moment being ivory, gold or champagne. There are also an increasing number of brides choosing more alternative colours for their dresses such as blush pink, lilac, burgundy or silver. Luckily they can now get a veil to match, and that goes for accessories too. From crystals and ribbon to lace and pearls, there are so many different ways to decorate a veil you'll be spoilt for choice. The easiest way would be to look at the beading on your dress and match it to that, or look around in magazines or on the internet for inspiration. The choices are endless, but the more you look around and try on, the more you'll get to know what's right for you and your wedding. For more information take a look at www.theweddingveilshop.co.uk

YOUR REAL-LIFE VEIL QUESTIONS... ANSWERED!

Q Do I have to wear a veil over my face?

A No, not if you don't want to. The tradition of veiling the face was meant to symbolise modesty and purity, but some brides just don't feel that way. You have to do whatever feels right for you.

Q Who lifts the veil at the wedding ceremony?

A Again it's up to you. Your dad can do it as if he's presenting you to your new husband or the groom can do it shortly before the first married kiss, or you can even do it yourself as a statement of independence!

Q How do I position my veil into my hair?

A Most veils will come on a comb and therefore will simply slide in to your up-do securely. You can either position it directly behind your tiara, which makes it come around the arms and shoulders more and also gives it more height as it is on top of your hair, or you can have your tiara in front of your do and the veil underneath, which makes it much sleeker in appearance. If you are wearing your hair down and loose you may need some extra help in the form of grips and back combing. This will give the comb something to hold on to. Ask

your wedding dress shop and hairdresser for their opinions on how to best secure your veil, and how to remove it without ruining your hairstyle.

Q Can I wear a veil even if we're having a civil ceremony in our local registrar's office?

A Of course you can! Whether it's a religious service in church or a civil ceremony on a beach, a veil is still a traditional part of wedding attire, and besides, when else will you get to wear one? The most important thing is that you're happy and comfortable with your overall look on the day.



WWW.ENGLISHROSEWEDDINGS.CO.UK

FINDING THE RIGHT VEIL FOR YOU

1. Blusher – Shoulder-length style, fixed on top of the head
2. Elbow – A simple style that falls to the elbow
3. Fingertip – Classic fingertip length veil usually trimmed in lace or satin
4. Waltz – A calf or ankle-length. Good for round faces
5. Chapel – Sweeps the floor, worn at the back of the head
6. Cathedral – The longest and most formal style of veil, seen often at royal weddings, it falls as a train at the back
7. Mantilla – A Spanish-style lace veil that covers the bride from head to toe and falls from the crown

Taken from *The Wedding Dress: A Sourcebook*, by Philip Delamore, published by Pavilion 2005, £20.