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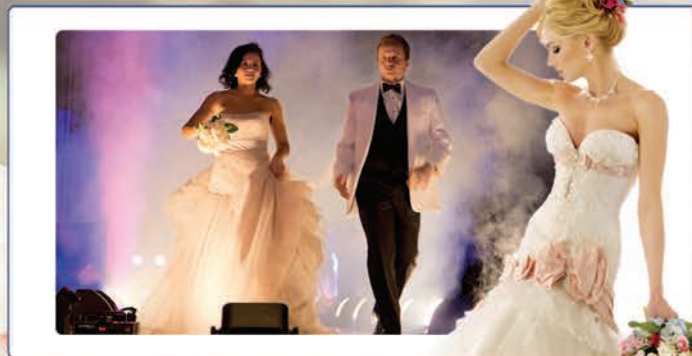
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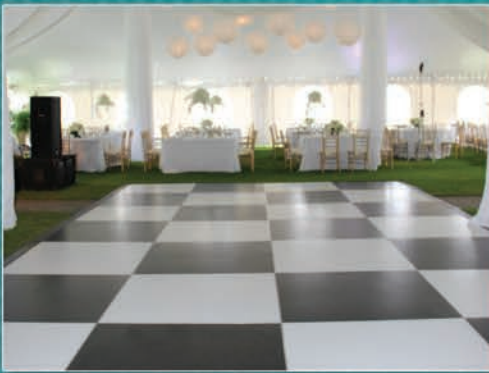
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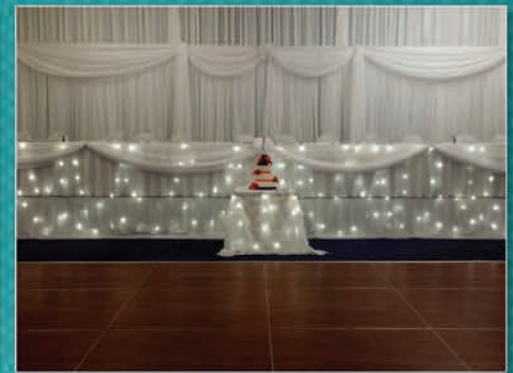
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your wedding cake

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When to Begin Looking

Begin checking bakeries about six months before your wedding. As with a caterer, you will need an estimate of the number of guests you will be feeding.

What to Look For

Bakers should be able to provide you with photographs of wedding cakes they have previously made, or actual cakes which are available. They should provide you with some samples to taste, so that you can compare the quality of different cakes.

Flavors

There are always the traditional ones: white or yellow cake. But you may wish to be a little different. Other choices may include chocolate, rum, carrot, pound cake, marble, or even cheesecake. There are just as many choices for fillings. These may include butter cream, jams, pudding, custard or fresh fruit. The fillings come in different flavors, too. Your choices may include raspberry, orange, lemon, chocolate, mocha or amaretto.

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choosing a ceremony site

For you and your fiancée, the ceremony is the most important part of your day. It should be a reflection of the two of you, and your new life together.

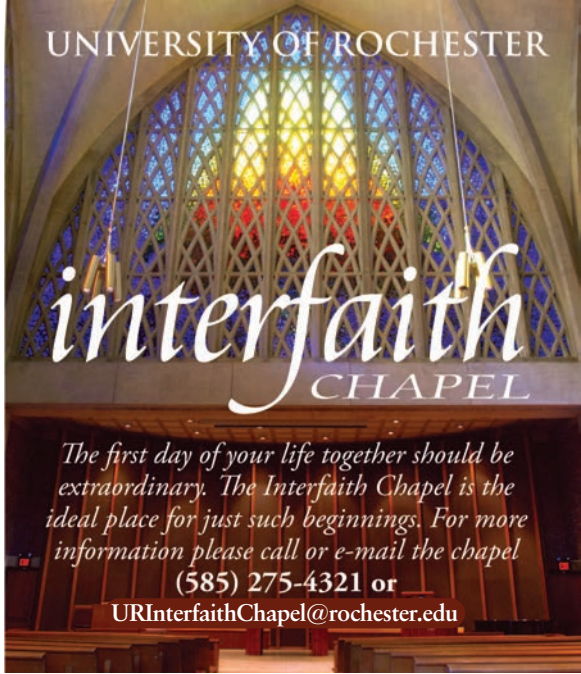
The formality of your wedding

There are three options for your ceremony, although you may wish to combine some aspects of each. Your ceremony can be formal, semiformal, or informal. The degree of formality, and number of attendants, will help to determine the site of your wedding.

Formal: The bride wears a long, white or ivory gown. Bridesmaids wear floor-length gowns. Groom and attendants wear tuxedos. Bride has a maid of honor, and three to seven bridesmaids. Groom has a best man, and one usher for every 50 guests.

Semi-Formal: The bride wears a long, white or ivory gown. Bridesmaids wear floor-length gowns. Groom and attendants wear tuxedos. Bride has a maid of honor, and three to seven bridesmaids. Groom has a best man, and one usher for every 50 guests.

Informal: The bride wears white or pastel dress or suit. The bridesmaid wears a dress. Groom and his attendant wear dark suits. Bride has maid of honor. Groom has a best man.



Read the entire **Choosing a Ceremony Site** article and all of the planning articles at 585wedding.com



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formal wear page 21 and inside front cover

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rentals pages 3-6

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dj's and bands



The music you choose will set the mood for your reception. Select your band or disc jockey carefully, since they can either make or break your reception.

Tips on Selecting the Music

- Keep in mind the number and age range of your guests. The music should not only please you, but should also be enjoyable for your guests.
- Have your music in keeping with your wedding style. If you are having a very formal wedding, a heavy metal band may not be appropriate.
- Karaoke is also available through some DJ services and bands, but you may not have many people getting up to sing. It may also tend to take attention away from the bridal party, with more attention paid to the singer. But it can also provide a memorable reception, especially if you have a lot of people who will have fun with it.

- You may want to have background music provided during the dinner as well as dance music after. You should consider having a different style of music played during dinner. The volume shouldn't interfere with dinner time conversations.
- Don't be afraid to ask the DJ or band to play slower or softer music if that seems to be the mood of your reception. If everyone is engrossed in good conversations the music shouldn't interfere with them.

When to Shop

The best bands and DJs can book up one year in advance or more, so you would be well advised to start shopping for the music as soon as your reception site and ceremony site have been set.

Cost

The next factor to consider is cost. This will depend on the time of day, the location, and the number of hours you want music. The playing time is generally four to six hours and the fees from \$300 to \$1000. If your wedding is during the winter or on an "off night" you may be able to get a bargain. Just keep in mind, generally, you get what you pay for. When it comes to entertaining all your guests the "best deal" is not the lowest price, it is the best you can afford. DJs are usually less expensive than live bands.

Read the entire DJs & Bands article on-line @ www.585wedding.com!



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formal wear

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The men in your wedding party can be as distinctively dressed as the women. It only takes a little time and thought to determine which style of formalwear best suits your overall wedding style.

What Do Men Wear?

The men's clothing should be a reflection of the formality of your wedding as well as the style and the time of day. It is easiest to coordinate your wedding if you decide on the men's wear after the bride has chosen both her own and her attendants' gowns. This allows you to choose a style and color which will complement the women's attire. You will find many different styles, colors, patterns, and accessories. The factor which should most influence your decisions is the style of your wedding. If it is very formal, will a paisley cummerbund look silly? If it is more relaxed, will black tie look too stiff?

Who Needs Formal Wear?

Any man who is considered a part of the wedding party. This would include the groom, his attendants, fathers of the bride and groom, and perhaps grandfathers. If a man other than the bride's father is giving her away, he, too, should wear matching formalwear.

When To Shop

You should begin looking for formalwear from six to nine months before your wedding date, or as soon as you have decided on the

women's wear. The earlier you make your decision, the more selection will be available.

Where To Shop

Most men rent formalwear for a wedding. There are many shops in the Rochester area which specialize in renting men's formal wear. Look for a store which offers many different styles with a wide selection of accessories. This store should have informed salespeople, as well as a reputation for reliability. Many shops also offer wedding packages, such as money-saving specials or other incentives for weddings that book early.

Rental Times

The shop will need your wedding date to reserve the formalwear. Usually you will be able to pick up the clothing on Thursday or Friday, and return it on Monday for a weekend wedding.

Fitting Out-Of-Town Ushers

Most formalwear shops have measurement forms available. You ask the out-of-town groomsmen to take them to a local (to them) formalwear shop, where they can be measured and the form filled out. It is industry courtesy for a shop to do this free of charge. The form is then returned to the shop where the formal is being rented.

Style Terms

Double breasted: Two vertical rows of buttons in front, one to close the coat, and one for decoration.

Single breasted: One row of buttons in front.

European fit: These are more cut in at the waist, designed for a trimmer man.

[Read the entire Formal Wear article @ 585wedding.com](http://www.585wedding.com)

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wedding gowns

When buying a wedding gown, you are not just buying the gown, you are buying the entire ensemble - including the gown, the headpiece, jewelry, undergarments, and shoes. Make sure that all the different pieces work well together!

Be Prepared

- Look through bridal magazines for ideas. Most manufacturers list shops where the dress can be found locally.
- Don't fall in love with the first dress you try on. You might like the look of yourself as a bride better than the actual gown. It's easy to be swept away by the first gown! Try on a couple more, and then go back to the first one. You may still love it best, or you may find it isn't as fantastic as you had thought.
- Bring shoes the height you want to wear at the wedding with you when you shop. This will give you a good idea of how the gown will actually fall on you. Also - wear a strapless bra so that you can get a good idea of how the dress will look.
- Bring only one person with you on your first few trips, someone you can trust to tell you the truth about how the gown looks on you.
- You may want to take some attendants with you, once you have narrowed down your choices. That way you can get different opinions of how the gowns look on you. Of course, you get to make the final choice!
- Be well rested. If you are tired and less than patient, the shopping trip is guaranteed not to be a success.
- Have a list of the following for your bridal consultant: the date and time of the wedding, the formality, the theme, and the location of ceremony and reception. Also, you should have already asked your officiant about dress restrictions.



- Allow several weeks or even months to visit shops and try on dresses. If you try on too many dresses at one time, you'll get tired, and may wind up getting something just to be done with it.
- Try on different types and styles of gowns. Some may not be as impressive on the hanger as they are once you get them on. You'll always know when you have found the perfect gown!
- Ask if the gown can be customized. Perhaps you love everything but the sleeves — can they be changed? Remember, this may involve additional costs.
- Before you buy — Beware! Has the shop been in business for a while? Does it seem well taken care of, the people who work there professional?
- Keep in mind that during the ceremony, your guests will mainly see the back of your gown, so be sure you like that as well as the front!
- Know your budget before you start looking. That will give the consultant a place to start.
- Don't try to do everything at once. Shop for the gown first, and when that decision has been made, look for the accessories.

When To Shop

This is one of the first details you'll want to attend to — because it's so much fun! As soon as you know what season your wedding will be you can start to look. You should make sure you start looking at least seven months before your wedding, to allow enough time for everything that needs to be done.

continued on page 22

continued from page 21

Bridal Consultant

Many bridal shops offer the services of a bridal consultant, who assists you in trying on gowns, helps you choose accessories, and takes care of ordering your gown for you. She can be a very valuable help to you, so make sure to ask her a lot of questions and for her advice. She has a lot of experience in helping brides look their best.

Make An Appointment

Making an appointment assures you that there will be a salesperson to attend to your every need. Start off by telling her your budget. That way you won't see a lot of dresses you can't afford. You will be in a large dressing room, with plenty of mirrors. The salesperson will bring you many different gowns to try on. Try to have an idea of what you want, and talk to her about it. If you want lots of lace and sequins, she won't bring you the less ornate dresses. You may also want to take this time to look for your attendants' dress, just to get an idea of what type of dress will compliment your gown.

Setting A Budget

Usually the first question the bridal consultant will ask is how much you want to spend. To give you some idea, wedding gowns can cost from a few hundred dollars to many thousands. An average price in Rochester would be from about five hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars. The bridal gown is traditionally paid for by the bride's parents, or by the bride herself.

Cost

This will depend upon the intricacy of the design, the type of material, and the number of alterations you want made. If you find the dress you love is out of your price range, you may also ask about buying the sample dress. If cost is a large factor, you may look for one that had been canceled, or at the end of the season when the dresses are on sale. You may also want to see if having your dress made by a seamstress is more economical, although you may not find a great deal of difference in price.

Looking for bargains? This can be a triumph or a headache. Remember, you usually get what you pay for. If it seems an unbelievable bargain, it probably is. Make sure that the quality of material and workmanship are the same as the higher-priced gowns. Also, make sure the shop is reputable, that you will actually have your gown, and on time.

Figure Types

Women come in many different shapes and sizes. Keep your figure in mind when shopping for a dress. Here are some tips to get you thinking! If you are:

Short: Look at dresses where the lines run up and down. An empire waist, a high neckline or trim at the neckline will also help. Stay away from extremely ornate gowns, they will make you look shorter. An elongated waistline will help to add height.

Tall: Choose a skirt with many flounces or tiers. A low neckline can minimize height. Off-the-shoulder gowns will also flatter you.

Thin: A very full dress, especially with full sleeves, will help round you out. Materials that drape a lot will look good on you. Horizontal detail will also serve to add shaping.

Stick figure: If your hips and bust are the same size, and you don't have a waist, your dress should help create your shape. You would look best in gowns with oversized shoulders, a bateau neckline, or very detailed sleeves. You should look for a more billowy skirt.

Full figure: A flowing material, such as chiffon, will help hide extra pounds. Look at your good points and emphasize these and try to detract attention from your bad points. If you have a heavy waist, choose a dress with a higher waistline.

Top heavy: You can help balance your figure by lengthening the upper body and drawing attention downward. Billowing skirts or a lot of ornamentation on the skirt will balance your figure.

Pear shape: You should look for a gown with more ornamentation or texture on the bodice. Try to find a dress that gives you broader, squarer shoulders. Your skirt should have a defined waistline, then not be extremely full beneath.

Wide hips: A flared skirt, or an A-line dress will look best on you. A fuller skirt will minimize heavy hips or legs. The wider hemline can be balanced on top by puffed sleeves or a hat. A dramatic neckline will also draw attention upwards.

Hourglass: Your dress should balance your proportions above and below your waist. Classic styles will look best on you. Look for a dress that will emphasize your waistline.

[Read the entire Wedding Gowns article @ 585wedding.com](http://www.585wedding.com)



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Good professional photographers will do the best job of capturing the different emotions of the day. They know when and where to be at all times during the ceremony. They know how to set up their equipment and lighting in the most effective and efficient ways. It is advised that you start your search well in advance. The best photographers can be booked as far ahead as a year, especially during peak wedding months.

Read the entire [Wedding Photographers](http://www.585wedding.com) article on-line @ www.585wedding.com!



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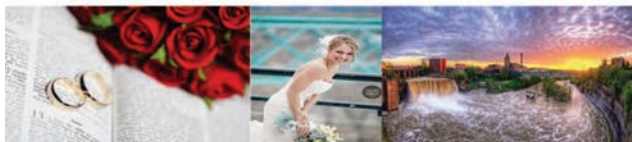


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The reception site should suit the style of your wedding. If your wedding is very formal, a more formal site would be in order. If your wedding is very relaxed, perhaps a reception at a park would be the right choice for you. Some choices available are hotels, restaurants, party houses, country clubs, your house of worship, parks or other public outdoor sites, or even private homes, such as your own or your parent's. Consider how far the site is from your wedding site, and how easy it will be for your guests to find.

When you have decided on the type of site you want, ask among your friends and family for recommendations. Find out where they have been that the food was very good, the site very pretty, etc.

continued on page 30



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continued from page 30

- The most common sites: party houses, hotels, or banquet halls generally provide their own catering. They can also take care of all the other details of the reception, so that you will have less to coordinate.
- If you opt instead for a house of worship, make sure you check if there are any restrictions on alcoholic beverages or music. Ask what the fee for using the facilities will be, and if they will allow you to bring in a caterer. Make sure all equipment and facilities are available, such as a kitchen with refrigerators and stoves, if you need these.
- If you choose a private home, make sure that you have enough room to accommodate all of your guests. You (or your family) can prepare the food, but that might be adding a lot of extra stress and work to an already busy day. You may want to look for a caterer to take care of the menu. Arrange for the rental of any

equipment that you will need. Make sure there is adequate parking for your guests. You have to determine if there are adequate rest room facilities available. You must also provide for the chance of bad weather, either by moving the party inside or having a closed tent.

Traditional (On-Site) Reception Locations

These are the sites most traditionally associated with receptions: party houses, restaurants, banquet halls, and country clubs. These sites will have all of the amenities you will require, all equipment and services that you will need. These sites provide you with one-stop shopping and are the most convenient.

How Big A Room Will You Need?

The very first thing you and your fiancé need to do is make a list of who you are going to invite, in order to get an approximate number of guests. The total number of guests will determine the amount of room you need. Try to get this count as accurate as possible. You don't want 200 people crowded into a room that only holds 100, and you don't want 50 people spread throughout a room that holds 300.

After you have made an initial list, call around to some of the sites you think you may be interested in. Ask for a tentative price range. Then look at your budget. If the banquet hall charges \$25 per person, and you have \$3,000 budgeted for the reception, then the 100 people on your guest list are well within budget.

[Read the entire Your Wedding Reception article @ 585wedding.com](http://www.585wedding.com)



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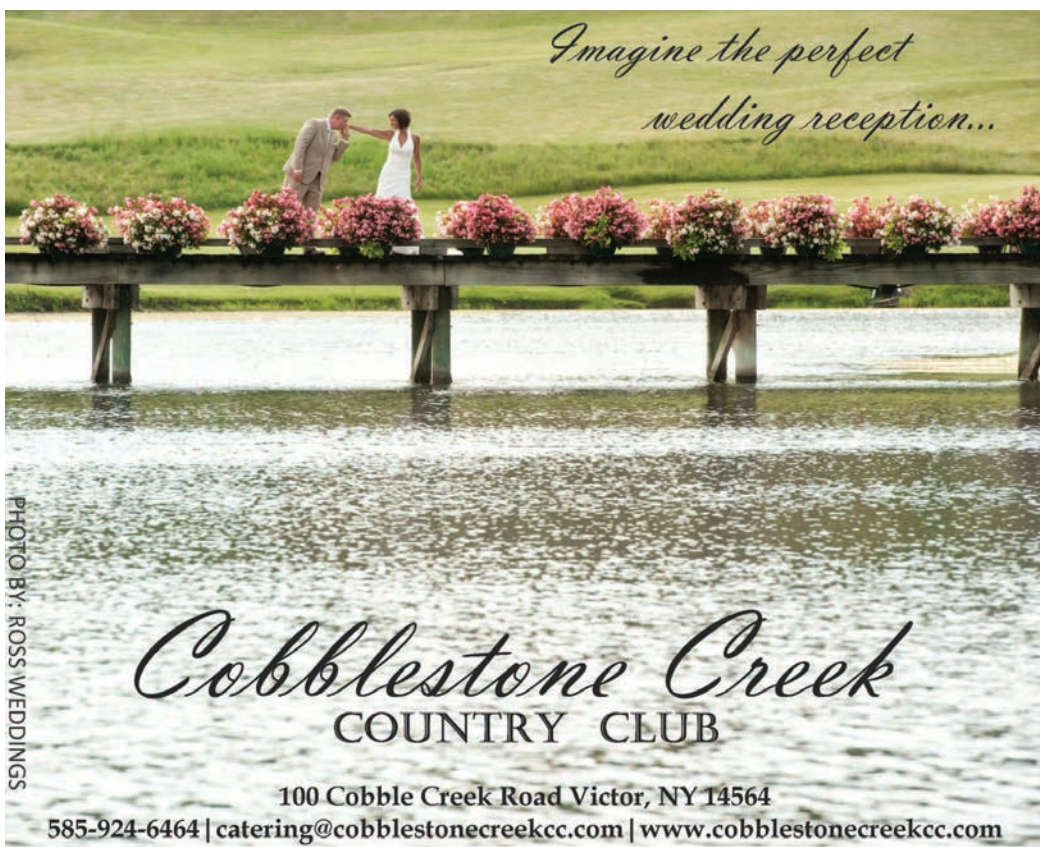



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