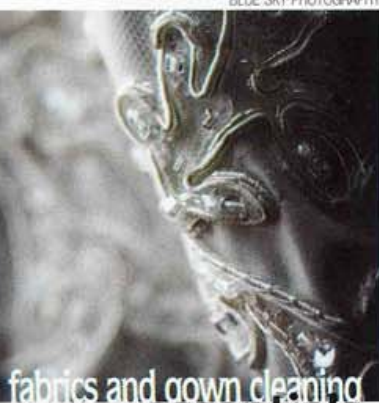




# whiter than white?

There are so many whites to choose from that there will be one that suits you – it's just a question of finding it

BLUE SKY PHOTOGRAPHY



## fabrics and gown cleaning essentials

### WHEN TO BOOK

Buy your fabric 9-12 months before  
Get gown cleaned ASAP after your wedding

### WHERE WILL I FIND...

Fabric retailers: Page 127  
Fabric cleaning companies: Page 127

### HOW MUCH?

£10-£30/metre depending on the fabric  
Gown cleaning: £50-£100

### NEED TO KNOW

- ★ Fabric shops can be great for inspiration
- ★ Fabric dyes are a great way of sticking to that fabulous colour scheme you came up with. You can use them on ribbons, tablecloths, shirts, shoes and many other items. It's got to be easier than sourcing identical supplies! Try the Peebles based Dye For You (Tel: 01968 660 736)
- ★ Enlisting professional help with cleaning is worthwhile, as it ensures the dress is cleaned, stored and folded properly

Ask the expert... Personal stylist Michaela Jedinak offers advice on choosing the right shade of white for your wedding dress

**Q Why does it matter which shade of white you choose?** Wearing the wrong white may make you look pale or tired, or the white could be too overpowering for you. The perfect white will give a dynamic, happy, healthy and vibrant look, because it will flatter your complexion.

**Q Can I tell from holding fabric up to my face whether it will suit me or not?** It is a good way of starting to find your perfect white, but make sure you do this in natural daylight.

**Q I'm really pale and white seems to make me look a bit ill. I'm willing to try anything but still want to look relatively bridal. Any suggestions?** There are so many whites to choose from that there will be one that suits you, it's just a question of finding it.

**Q I've got bumpy bits I'd like to hide but I still want to wear white – which fabrics are the most flattering?** Don't choose figure-hugging styles and light fabrics, instead try those that are heavier in weight such as duchess satin, gabardine or shantung.

**Q I'd like my bridesmaids to wear white as well as me, do you think that's a good idea?** If your bridesmaids are not around your age, ie children or young teenagers, it is not a problem, but you should be

careful dressing your bridesmaids in white when they are an age where they could easily be confused with the bride!

**Q My bridesmaid is going to be six months pregnant when we get married – any tips on colours or fabrics that would draw attention away from her bump?**

You have two choices when looking for a dress – either you want to minimise or maximise the fact that she is pregnant. If you want to minimise her growing tummy then look for an empire or A-line style dress that breaks away at the bust line. But if you choose to show off the bump then go for something more fitting, such as a column-style gown in a soft fabric, eg stretch silks, which will not add bulk but will show off her curves. **SWD**

For more information on finding the right bridal outfit for you, see Michaela's website, [joyofcolour.com](http://joyofcolour.com), where she offers colour analysis for brides and bridesmaids as part of her online services

## The DOs and DON'Ts of looking after your dress

### SQUEAKY CLEAN

- DO** ask a friend/mum to deal with the dress while you're away if you're going straight off on honeymoon
- DON'T** ask anyone except a specialist cleaner to remove stains from your dress – it could easily be ruined with the wrong treatment

### STORED FOR LIFE?

- DON'T** wear jewellery that could snag the delicate fabric of your dress
- DO** use the loops on your dress to hang it up, rather than risk stretching the straps
- DON'T** store your dress in plastic bags or plastic wrapped containers because it can trap moisture (causing mildew) or even turn the dress yellow
- DO** have enough bridesmaids to help you stay looking your best
- DON'T** store your dress in boxes with tissue paper unless you're sure it's the acid-free variety
- DO** store your dress somewhere that has a stable temperature – this excludes the loft!
- DON'T** drink red wine on the day, it's asking for trouble. Stick to Champagne instead!
- DO** stop to think before you try on your dress for the millionth time – the more you do it the more likely you are to stain it before the wedding
- DON'T** store your dress anywhere there's a possibility of damp. A dark place is best too.

Some information sourced from the Association of Wedding Gown Cleaners

TOM GIBSON PHOTOGRAPHY