

THE ULTIMATE WEDDING DRESS GUIDE

Step 4: Bridal Alterations

Your dress has arrived, now all you need is the perfect fit!

The Goal: To have your completed dress in your hands 2 weeks (or more) before your wedding date!

Important Alterations Information:

1. Wedding dress alterations take 6-8 weeks to complete.
2. Most alterations shops require an appointment for wedding dress fittings so schedule ahead.
3. The sooner you begin the process the better. Schedule your bridal alterations first fitting as soon as you physically have your dress.
4. Plan to attend 3 fittings; First, Second, and Final.
5. Each fitting will be scheduled a few weeks apart to allow time for the alterations to be completed.
6. More complicated alterations may take more than 3 fittings so plan accordingly by adding a few more weeks to your planning timeline.
7. **If you anticipate any significant life changes that may impact your body and therefore the fit of the dress, work with your alterations shop to plan an appropriate timeline for alterations completion such as pushing the alterations closer to your date.*

Date will you have your dress in hand: _____

Date and time of your First Wedding Dress Fitting: _____

Appointment Overview:

1. Fitting of the dress will occur from **Top to Bottom**; beginning with the shoulders, working down the waist and hips, through to the hem and ending with the bustle. This process allows the tailor to address every important detail.
2. **What is a BUSTLE?** A bustle is the way your train will be fastened up after the ceremony and before the reception so that it stays out from under your feet while socializing and dancing!

**Each dress is different and the tailor will design a bustle appropriate to your dress, giving you options based on the length and weight of your train.*

Bridal Alterations Fitting Checklist:

- ◇ Exact Undergarments or shapewear you plan to wear.
- ◇ Exact Shoes; Ceremony and Reception; this is critical for hemming the dress.
- ◇ *Optional:* Accessories; earrings, hair piece, veil, belt, etc.
- ◇ Maid of Honor, Mom, or Hype Girl; Someone with your best interest at heart.

Tailor's Tip: Bring all your questions and ideas! This is your special day and the more you explain your vision and ask essential questions, the better everything will go. Don't be shy!

