

# TULSA WORLD

## The dos and don'ts of wedding attire

By [JASON ASHLEY WRIGHT](#) World Scene Writer

5/27/2008

Last Modified: 5/27/2008 3:17 AM



Good afternoon: Andre wears o,-white Perry Ellis linen pants (\$59.62), matching jacket (\$138.78) and aqua BCBG Attitude dress shirt (\$49.50), all from Dillard's Promenade; and Lauren wears a summery Trina Turk cotton spaghetti-strap dress (\$268) with safari tan Love Quotes linen/viscose wrap (\$86), both from Terri's.

**The bride wore white.  
The groom wore black.  
The guests wore jeans?**

Jeans, T-shirts, sneakers — might sound like the weekend to most folks.

For others, it might sound like wedding bells.



"Nowhere has it ever been written that that's how you go to a wedding," said Lynn Wheatley, who, with Jane Butts, owns Lasting Impressions, an event, design and production company. That said, she's seen more than her

share of weddings.

So has Travers Mahan, owner of the same-named menswear shop at The Plaza, 81st Street and Lewis Avenue.

"I don't want to be too fuddy-duddy," Mahan said, "but there's something about tradition. Weddings are, hopefully, forever. And I think when people look back on those things, they want to be appropriately attired."

But, some of you may be wondering, what does "appropriately attired" even mean?

"Today, people sometimes tend to be too casual when going to weddings," said Rachel Wagner, founder and director of Rachel Wagner Etiquette and Protocol in Tulsa. "Too casual," according to her, Mahan and Wheatley, would be jeans, T-shirts and untucked tops.

"You just have to use your common sense," said Mahan, adding that "society has gotten very lazy." Just because people can dress any way they wish "doesn't make it right," he maintained.

Case in point: A pair of jeans and a T-shirt might be comfortable for work (even though that's classified as casual — not even business casual — by most local retailers or style experts). But that same outfit just shouldn't pass the muster at events such as weddings.

"Never wear jeans or flip-flops or shorts to a wedding," advised Jennifer Thompson, owner of Facchiano's bridal and formalwear boutique at 71st Street and Garnett Road.

Of course, it doesn't mean you have to doll or dude up in sequins or tuxes — most of the time, anyway.

"Err on the side of being conservative because that's always appropriate," Wagner said.

Some wedding invitations might state a certain dress requirement, Wheatley said. If they do, it's usually black-tie or black-tie optional. Most invitations, however, don't specify — it's kind of assumed you won't show up in the aforementioned denim.

From there, go by the time of day, with afternoon weddings being a bit more casual than evening weddings, which are typically more dressy.

See more specific wedding wardrobe guidelines for wedding belles at left.

---

**Jason Ashley Wright 581-8483**

[jason.wright@tulsaworld.com](mailto:jason.wright@tulsaworld.com)