

Bad Wedding Color Choices – Color Horror Stories

The color scheme you choose for your wedding can make or break the look of everything from your wedding party to the décor at the reception. Select a lively, attractive color combination and your guests will comment on your good taste and style. Make an unfortunate color choice and they'll talk about your mistake for weeks after your ceremony!

Choosing an attractive color scheme isn't just about what your favorite colors are. You also have to take into consideration what will look good on your bridesmaids, how the colors will work at the reception site and a host of other potential issues. The following stories demonstrate just how wrong a color theme for a wedding can go.

Rebecca's Bridesmaids

Rebecca had been dreaming about her wedding day for years and wanted a light, airy color scheme that would reflect the beauty of the spring day she chose for her garden wedding. Since she wanted the beautiful rose garden to be the center of attention, she decided to do something a bit unusual and put all of her bridesmaids in simple white gowns with pastel pink sashes. She was going to be wearing a white gown herself that would look gorgeous with her dark hair and eyes.

Unfortunately, two of her bridesmaids were tall and heavy set. The pure white dresses only emphasized their size. A few rude guests noted that the white dresses made the bridesmaids look like "Bridal Beached Whales," which was certainly not the look Rebecca was going for!

One of her bridesmaids was also extremely fair, with pale skin and hair. The pure white gown washed her out so much that she looked ill in the wedding pictures. The color simply wasn't flattering at all with the girl's fair coloring.

If Rebecca had done some research, she would have discovered that pure white is one of the most difficult colors for most people to wear. Very few people don't look paler and heavier when wearing unrelieved white. The pale pink sashes didn't add enough color for the look to work. There is, however, an assortment of off-white shades that are flattering to most skin shades and can work just as well as pure white if you're looking for a simple, elegant look in the pastel range. We'll take a closer look at selecting the right wedding whites in later chapters.

Fiona's Mismatch in Red

Fiona was getting married for the second time and didn't want to wear a traditional white dress. It was a small, informal wedding and she decided on a lovely cocktail dress for the ceremony and reception. Since her favorite color

was red, she chose a silk dress in a rich, deep red. Lots of people were surprised by her choice since she was a redhead. Although it's perfectly acceptable for the bride to wear a dress that isn't white or cream for today's weddings, especially when it is a second marriage, Fiona would have done better to choose a color that contrasted with or complimented her gorgeous red hair.

When Fiona got the wedding pictures back, she was disappointed. Until she saw them, she hadn't realized just how overwhelming the red dress was on her. The dress was just close enough to her naturally red hair that it didn't quite match, but wasn't far enough off to contrast nicely, either. The dress and her hair clashed, each shade seeming to shout for attention.

In the formal wedding photographs, Fiona's face looked like a disembodied head floating in a pool of red. It was unflattering and vaguely unsettling. In the photos taken by guests, Fiona seemed to be just a blur of color. With very little difference between her long hair and the gown, the light reflected and enhanced the highly saturated color – it was what you saw instead of the bride herself.

Barb's Décor Disaster

Barb chose rich, fall colors for her September wedding. The colors themselves looked lovely together – a rich, warm copper the color of autumn leaves accented with touches of golden yellow and brown. She chose to have her wedding ceremony at dusk in an oak grove. It was a lovely setting that captured the sunset colors beautifully, but it was dim and cool in the oak grove.

Barb set out baskets filled with silk flowers in autumn colors and real pinecones to decorate the space. The baskets were placed at the end of each row. Unfortunately, with the low light, the natural colors of the baskets, pinecones and autumn leaves blended in with the surroundings a bit too much and were difficult to see.

Barb's grandmother failed to see a large basket of pinecones and tripped. Her fall caused a broken hip and she had to be rushed to the emergency room. The wedding had to be pushed back several hours until they were sure her grandmother was okay, and the event certainly wasn't very festive after that.

When choosing your décor, you have to keep in mind not only the color scheme you like, but how it will work in the setting for both the wedding and the reception. If you are having a reception in a banquet hall with neutral colors, you're fortunate. But if the carpeting, walls and draperies are in a bold, distinct color you will need to take them into account when decorating so that you don't have colors that are too jarring together – remember that lots of pictures will be taken at the reception, and the background colors will be on display in your snapshots.

Our wedding colors guide will help you navigate the many issues surrounding making the best possible color choice for your wedding, from how many colors you should use to which shades are flattering to which body types and skin colors. You'll have a lovely, stylish wedding from start to finish if you follow our color scheme tips for your big day.



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