

## Choosing Pearl Jewelry for the Wedding Party

For centuries, pearls have been synonymous with purity, sophistication and romance. There is nothing more classic than a Bride in a white flowing gown, her neck draped with dazzling white pearls.

Because pearls come in a variety of shapes, colors and overtones they are very versatile; allowing them to be a perfect choice to support most any wedding theme.

One should consider the overall theme of the wedding before deciding on which bridal pearl jewelry to buy. Pure white or ivory Akoya, South Sea or Freshwater pearl sets are the classic choice for a traditional wedding. Larger sizes, starting in the 7-8mm range are customary.

White South Sea pearl pendant and earring sets are excellent choices for a modern style wedding. Black Tahitian or Golden South Sea pearl sets are ideal choices for an exotic wedding.

As bride is the star of the ceremony, the Bride should wear the largest and prettiest pearls. Her pearls should reflect her individuality and personality as well as the wedding theme. She should also choose the highest quality pearls possible; preferably those with a rating of AAA. She should be free to choose the pearls that appeal to her most in color, overtone and size as well. Her pearl jewelry should possess the highest shine, color and beauty. This is her wedding day after all!

The length of her pearl necklace will be determined by the neckline of the dress she has chosen to wear. If the dress has a high neckline above the collarbones, a 16 inch choker necklace is most appropriate. If the dress has a moderate neckline slightly below the collarbones, a 17-18 inch necklace is the best choice. If she is wearing a dress with a low neckline, the 18-22 inch range is recommended.

A 32 inch single strand pearl necklace is also a good idea due to its adaptivity. For example, during the ceremony the Bride can double up the length, turning the necklace into a double strand. After the wedding, she can wear the necklace at its full length to create a fashionable effect.

For a modern, contemporary look, choose a White South Sea Pearl Pendant and Earring set. The Bride's pearl jewelry should also be complimentary and relative to her figure. If she is a petite woman, a small necklace and earring set in the 6.5-7.5mm range is appropriate. If she is of a moderate build, a necklace and earring set in the 7.5-8.5mm range is an excellent choice. Generally, 7-7.5mm is the most popular size; as it is neither too big nor too small in appearance.

During the ceremony the Bridesmaids are living extensions of the Brides' own beauty; each one representing the love and friendship the Bride carries with her throughout her life. It is important for the Bridesmaids jewelry to reflect the Brides' while not overshadowing it. For this reason smaller sizes, shorter lengths or different quality pearls than that of the Brides' are very appropriate.

To especially distinguish your maid of honor, bestow her with pearls that are slightly bigger, longer or of a different color than that of the other Bridesmaids. This will make her stand out and feel that she is extra special to you.

Although your Groom may be unaware, pearls are appropriate for men as well as women. A pair of small 5.5-6.5mm pearls can be set into matching cufflinks; perfectly complimenting the Groom's attire while adding an extra touch of class.

Ultimately, your wedding is a reflection of the commitment you and your partner have made to one another. Every aspect of the ceremony should represent this as much as possible. After all, this is supposed to be a celebration! Good luck!

## About the Author

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Source: <http://www.topearl.com>