**Guide For Brides**

Leading Bridal Expert Answers Top Wedding Questions

(NAPSA)—Your wedding day is one of the most memorable in your lifetime. Whether you choose to have an extravagant affair or an intimate beachside gathering, all brides desire to look their best on this special day. From choosing the perfect dress, jewelry and wedding rings just right.

To shed some light on today's trends in everything from bridal gowns to finding the perfect ring, Alison Rowe, Fashion & Jewelry Editor for The Bride and Bloom, answers some of the most common questions:

Q: What's the difference between a petite and a tall bride?

A: At first glance they may appear similar, but if you take a closer look you'll see there are quite a few notables. Petite bodies, with pure white or precious metal, meaning it's naturally white, as it doesn't change color or fade. White gold is actually yellow gold plated to appear white, and will require maintenance to restore its white luster. Though platinum is often perceived as the most expensive metal, I've seen quite a few designers introduce new lines of accessibility priced platinum bridal jewelry, such as the high quality without the high price tag. Designers like Frederick Goldman and Simon G. offer platinum starting at $1,000. A great resource to find a one-of-a-kind design at every budget. After doing your homework, visit your local jeweler for an appointment to select your perfect match.

Q: How do I know which wedding dress style will look best with my body type?

A: When it comes to finding the perfect wedding dress, it is as important as design. Luckily, gowns come in many styles with the same basic line. A few tips I always offer brides-to-be:

- Princess-style gowns will give a petite figure length, while Empire waist gowns can give a taller bride proportion.
- A-line gowns work best with a petite figure.
- A-line and princess styles accentuate a tiny waist and hide those hips! A great resource for shopping by body type can be found on David's Bridal.com.

Q: What are the most popular wedding band trends this year?

A: As a bridal editor, I've found channel set and eternity bands continue to be my favorite for wedding bands, while men tend to choose bands that have more textured elements. Check out Novell Design Studios' textural men's wedding bands. I love when couples create metal harmony by matching the metals of their rings. Personalization—such as engraving a sentimental quote or date onto the band—is gaining in popularity as well. When you engrave a platinum band, you know it will never wear away, unlike other precious metals.

Remember, your rings are the outward symbol of your love and commitment—finding the right band is the most important testimonials you can offer every couple.

Check out www.preciousplatinum.com/design-gallery for an array of affordable platinum jewelry at every budget. After doing your homework, visit your local jeweler and ask to try on a platinum ring—you'll feel the difference!

Don't Let Pests Get Cozy in Your Home

(NAPSA)—During the winter months, you may have a cozy warm place to come home to—but not if you’re sharing it with pests. Just like people, pests seek shelter from the cold weather and your home may seem like just the place to spend the winter.

According to the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), rodents alone invade an estimated 21 million homes in the U.S. each winter. Mice and rats can spread diseases like salmonella and hantavirus, find your food, and carry parasites, diseases like salmonella and hantavirus.

Older cold-water squarewalkers include the snake, mouse, and roaches. More than a nuisance, these household pests can trigger allergies and asthma attacks, spread disease, transmit bacteria, contaminate food and, in some cases, bite.

Pests can hitch a ride into your home on your shoes or pet carriers, such as firewood and foliage, as well as open windows and doors. They can gain entry through small cracks and crevices in a home's exterior.

"Pests include cockroaches, ants, spiders and especially rodents are common home invaders in the winter," says Missy Henriksen, vice president of public affairs for the National Pest Management Association (NPMA). "Our infestation by these pests can cause serious health and property issues if not properly and effectively treated in a timely manner. However, homeowners can help prevent infestations by taking a few simple steps at home.

"Luckily, there are many effective pest-preventing measures homeowners can use to discourage these unwanted guests from moving indoors for the winter. The NPMA recommends that homeowners:

- Keep branches and shrubbery trimmed away from the home.
- Store firewood at least 20 feet from the home and five feet off the ground.
- Install sweeps on exterior doors and repair damaged screens.
- Screen vents and openings to chimneys.
- Protect food stored in airtight contain- ers and dispose garbage regularly.
- If you suspect an infestation, contact your local pest professional.

To learn more about winter pest-preventing or to find a pest professional in your area, visit www.pestworld.org.

**Our Insect Enemies**

Homeowners can help prevent pests from causing damage during cold winter weather by taking a proactive approach.

Three pest-preventing measures homeowners can use to discourage these unwanted guests from moving indoors for the winter. The NPMA recommends that homeowners:

- Seal cracks and holes on the outside of the home.
- Store items that are kept in garages, basements and attics in plastic, sealed containers rather than cardboard boxes to prevent rodents from nesting inside.
- Keep branches and shrubbery trimmed away from the home.
- Store firewood at least 20 feet from the home and five feet off the ground.
- Install sweeps on exterior doors and repair damaged screens.
- Screen vents and openings to chimneys.
- Protect food stored in airtight contain- ers and dispose garbage regularly.
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**Tips From the Selective Service System Signing Up Online**

(NAPSA)—Today's technology may mean that a required rite of passage for the American man is much easier than it was for previous generations.

Registering with the Selective Service System can now be done online using an iPhone, BlackBerry or other smartphone or computer. Here's how:

- You are required by law to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of your 18th birthday. You may even submit your registration information as early as 17 years and 3 months.

You may register by either logging on to www.sss.gov and clicking on the green box entitled ‘sign up’. It only takes a minute to complete and submit the online form. If you’re 18, you will receive your registration number immediately. If you are submitting information earlier than 18, then Selective Service will process your application when you turn 18, and send you your registration number in the mail.

If you prefer a more traditional method, you may visit any U.S. Postal Service branch to get a Selective Service “mail-back” registrant. To register you must mail your application to any U.S. or international post office.

In addition, most high schools appoint a staff member or teacher to serve as Selective Service Registrars. These individuals help to register young men and answer questions.

- Eligible men can also register by calling the Selective Service system by phone or mail. Selective Service will send this card to any young man entering the branch. Mail-back cards are also available at some post office branches.

Another easy way to register is to check a box on the application form for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAPSA)

**Did You Know?**

(NAPSA)—Smart Moves, Smart Choices is a national, school-based program for middle and high school students designed to educate teens, parents and educators about the risks of abusing prescription medications.

To learn more about the program and to access the videos and tool kits visit www.SmartMovesSmartChoices.org.

- Re-keying your locks can be easy with Kwikset SmartKey technology, which lets you quickly and easily re-key your own locks in sec-
- ons without having to remove it from the door. Learn more at www.Kwikset.com.

- Whether it’s your wedding anniversary, birthday, engagement, wedding, Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day or just about any occasion, you can please people who are special to you. Have stars named for them through the International Star Registry. Learn more at www.stardex.com/registry/ for $28-333.

- Using synthetic oil such as Royal Purple can be a great way to extend the life of your vehicle and save money. Synthetic motor oils can easily keep the engine cool in hot weather and can also reduce engine wear.

- New research from the Communications Workers of America indicates that nearly half of U.S. residents lose Internet connection speeds fall below the FCC minimum broadband speed standard. To find out if your Internet connection is up to speed, take the Speed Matters test at www.SpeedMatters.org.

- In every episode of the “Pestkeeping with Marc Monroe,” customers stop by with pet in hand seeking advice on every topic from common cat/dog misconceptions to how to keep children and pets safe and happy while living under the same roof. Learn more at www.mooncatdog.com/pets/pe
tkeepingwithmarcmonroe.

- Some tax professionals continue to prepare their preparation well beyond the minimum. For example, H&R Block tax professionals complete 24 hours of continuing education annually. On average, their clients are served by someone with more than eight years’ experience and 460 hours of train-

- The flesh-like appendage that hangs off of a turkey’s neck is called the wattle.