

### 9 Places To Find An Inexpensive Wedding Gown

Date Published: 17th September 2010

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Searching for a wedding dress often means coming across expensive price tags outside your budget. Wedding gowns can cost you thousands of dollars. To find your dream wedding dress within your budget, try these 9 budget-friendly places to search for your perfect wedding dress.

#### 1) Consignment Shops

Some people call it thrifting, others call it hand-me-downs, I call it smart! Most wedding dresses here have been only worn once. Selling it to a thrift store is an option to let the dress live again! Most dresses at consignment stores are still in perfect condition. I know many brides who not only have found a bargain at a consignment shop, but the dress of their dreams as well!

#### 2) Department Store Wedding Gowns

Most department stores have a bridal section that offers gowns, veils, gloves, shoes, and many other things essential to your wedding. Because it is a department store and very accessible, they tend to be much less expensive. Department stores can carry some of the top bridal gown brands at a lower and much more reasonable price point. Search these stores and you'll find beautiful wedding gowns that are affordable and timeless. Some examples of stores that have bridal sections are JC Penney, Dillards, and Macy's.

#### 3) Craigslist

It may sound a bit out of the norm, but search craigslist for wedding dresses! I have done this in the past for clients and you would be surprised at the quality you may find. With Craigslist, because the searches are city specific, you can go see the dress in person before deciding whether to buy.

#### 4) Search On Ebay

Along the lines of craigslist, sellers post their bridal gowns, some used and some new, for anyone to buy. Because eBay has such a large community of sellers all across the globe, chances are you'll find more dresses than you came to search for in the first place! Because of this, you can specify exactly what type of wedding dress you are looking for and bid on it at a price most likely lower than retail.

#### 5) Sample Sales

Wedding designers and bridal shops often have sample sales a few times a year of their wedding dresses. At these sample sales, the choices and sizes may be a bit limited, but most brides have to have their wedding dress altered regardless. If your heart is set on a designer dress, try visiting a bridal sample sale to check out designer dresses at a much lower cost than you would find anywhere else.

#### 6) Retail Shops

Most people don't realize that many retail stores you see every day in the mall sell wedding dresses and gowns. Stores such as Ann Taylor, J. Crew, and soon Anthropologie all showcase their own line of affordable wedding and bridesmaids dresses. These dresses are sometimes more toned down and simple, tailored to the bride who wants something affordable, high quality, and from a brand she trusts.

#### 7) Make Your Own Dress

For the women out there who are handy with their hands and sewing equipment, consider making your own wedding dress! Because you are making the dress yourself, you can edit and personalize the dress to looking exactly how you want and fitting your body perfectly. Buying your own materials directly from fabric shops and adding in your own self-bought accessories will shove your cost way down!

#### 8) Off-Season Shopping

During peak wedding season, searching for a dress can mean hitting the highest price point there is while gown shopping. Because they know the most brides are out looking for a dress, the prices can skyrocket! The off-peak season for weddings is during the late fall and winter months. Try looking for a dress during this period of time. You might get lucky and find your favorite dress from last season marked down within your budget!

#### 9) Bridal Chain Store

Last but not least, you can't forget the tried and true bridal chain stores. These include your David's Bridal, Alfred Angelo, Maggie Sottero, among other stores that may be local to you. Find a bridal boutique and take your time looking through the store. Find something that may be similar to a designer dress that you are in love with. If the shop is out of your size, ask the shop for a similar style, or even if another store is a better option. The perk with these stores is that there are more than one – meaning another store might have your dress in your size.

A wedding budget is usually the most important thing I hear from brides when planning their nuptials. Saving money before the actual marriage is a smart thing to keep in mind. So you have to have the designer dress of the season. Why not search for a similar dress at a more affordable price? Or look online to see if a seller or online auction has your dress? In the long run, you may find the affordable wedding dress of your dreams at the cost you were dreaming of as well!

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