

More on tuxedos that can make a well-groomed groom

BY NANCY SUNDSTROM
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At a wedding, most eyes will be on the bride, but that doesn't mean the groom is off the hook when it comes to being — well — well-groomed.

Wayne Schmidt of Captain's Quarters in Traverse City said that while there are always new refinements every year to wedding apparel for the groom, it's hard to improve on the classic tuxedo styles that

remain timeless.

"You just can't go wrong with a classic black or white tuxedo," said Schmidt. "The simple elegance of that look will always complement the bride and that's what the groom needs to do."

Schmidt said the primary components of a "classic" tuxedo generally include a pull-back vest, a four-in-hand tie (also known as a long-style, Windsor or Euro tie) and a coat that has two or three buttons.

While there are a great range of styles and even colors to choose from, Schmidt said that the overall price of a

tuxedo is between \$80-\$90, often making the rental price one of the least expensive items needed for a wedding.

Natalie Johnson of Fashion Formals in Traverse City said she views the traditional tuxedo ensemble as a jacket with a notch lapel and a two or three button coat, a vest with higher cut and a Windsor tie.

"It's a clean, classy look that works for Tom Cruise at the Oscars or a local groom at his wedding," said Johnson. "And if a tuxedo isn't what you want for your event, you do have other options. The only difference between a tuxedo and a suit is satin lapels and a

satin stripe on the pants, so it really comes down to what will work best for the event and what someone will look good and be comfortable in."

Johnson says that as a rule of thumb, grooms won't want to downplay formality in their outfit if their bride is spending "any kind of significant amount" on her dress.

"If you talk with your bride and understand what she wants, then you'll both be on the same wavelength and everyone will look great," she said. "Just allow yourself enough time to take the stress out of making good decisions."

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An example of the classic look. A Tommy Hilfiger 1 button peak tuxedo with a black herringbone fullback.



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