

Wedding belles

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Cute, colorful sun dresses are totally acceptable for guests to wear at weddings — in the afternoon, anyway, according to Jennifer Thompson of Facchiano's bridal and formalwear boutique at 71st Street and Garnett Road.

"Most girls I see usually have trendy babydoll dresses," she said. "Some have a bubble skirt, lots of strapless."

Dresses in pretty florals, maybe even a summer suit in a light color, would work for afternoon, said local etiquette expert Rachel Wagner. If the dress is strapless or sleeveless, that's fine — but you may want to throw a light sweater or wrap over it in case the wedding or reception is in a chilly air-conditioned locale.

For evening, Wagner suggests an after-5 dress (cocktail, anyone?), maybe something knee-length. Again, florals are fine; neutrals are great.

"I wear black to every wedding," said Thompson, who reminded us that formal, black-tie occasions, of course, call for formal gowns.

Whether afternoon or evening, weddings aren't the venue to show off cleavage, Wagner said. You don't need to be in the spotlight. With that in mind, keep the "bling" to a minimum, she said — no upstaging the bride, the mother of the bride or the mother of the groom.

"The key is to still dress modestly, even for summer," she said.

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