



River and Sea Flowers

DIY Flowers by the Bucket

FAQ

How many stems do I need?

Centrepieces

You'll need between 8 to 30 stems for a wide mouth 500ml mason jar or vase of similar size. This may seem like a huge range but the number of stems you choose depends on the look you are going for. 8 stems will give you a loose and delicate look while 30 stems will give you a lush full look.

Bridal and Bridesmaids Bouquets

Bridal bouquets typically take 30-70 stems and bridesmaids bouquets take 16-35 stems depending on the size you would like them.

Boutonnieres

Boutonnieres typically take 3-6 stems.

How many days before the wedding should I get my flowers?

You should pick up your flowers one to two days ahead of your event. Gather up a few helpers and plan for it to take about half a day to create your pieces, though it really depends on the number of pieces you are making. Don't plan to do all the flowers the day of your wedding.

How should my flowers be stored?

Flowers need to be stored in a cool place out of direct sun and away from drafts, pets, vehicle exhaust and food. Boutonnieres can be wrapped in plastic or put in a plastic container and put in the fridge to help them to last out of water until they are worn.

What will I need to create my pieces?

You will need a few supplies: enough sharp snips or pruners for all your helpers, rubber bands, clean vases for your table arrangements, clean vases to hold your bouquets to keep them fresh and a compost bin to collect extra leaves and stem trimmings. For boutonnieres and bouquets you may need some floral tape, floral wire, ribbon and pins for boutonnieres. These are mostly available from craft stores. The number of buckets you need depends on how big you want each piece to be.

What shouldn't I put in worn and carried flowers?

Some flowers don't hold up well in boutonnieres, corsages, or bride's and bridesmaids bouquets as they will be out of water for some time. Save these to use in vase arrangements. Examples of flowers to avoid putting in your worn and carried pieces are: Basil, Mint, Chinese Forget-me-nots, Queen Anne's Lace, Chocolate Lace, Rudbeckia.

Is DIY right for me?

Are you (or your main helper) crafty?

Are you flexible about which flowers you will have?

Are you flexible with how your pieces turn out?

Are you prepared to spend some time planning the number of stems you will need and executing the pieces you want to have?

Do you have time to buy vases, ribbons and other supplies?

Will you have helpers on hand to assist with creating, transporting and setting out arrangements?

Tips and Tricks

-Inexpensive vases can be found at the thrift store. Plan to stop in every once and a while to see what is in stock. They often have mason jars as well.

-Anything that holds water can be used as a vase: glass bottles, teacups, flower pots...

-Containers that are not watertight can be lined with yogurt containers or solo cups: wooden planter boxes, tins, woven baskets...

-If you are going to leave any pieces to be made on the day of your wedding, make it the boutonnieres. Then they can stay in water until they are assembled and will stay fresher.

-If you are making several pieces that you plan to have looking similar (such as centrepieces or bridesmaids bouquets), create a prototype so that your helpers know roughly what the finished piece should look like.

- When making your table centrepieces you will want to try and keep the height of the flowers under 14" so that they are not blocking the view across the table when your guests are seated.

-Make a grid across the opening of your vase with clear tape. It helps you to position your stems where you want them. Make sure the tape doesn't get wet though.

-Sharp tools are essential. Stems that are cut with dull snips are crushed which prevents them from taking up water and staying fresh.

-Use clean tools and vases. Flower stems can be blocked by bacteria growing in dirty water which will negatively affect their vase life. Changing the water every other day also helps to keep them fresh.

-Remove any leaves that will be below the water line to help keep the water clean.

-If you would like to practice ahead of time, you may want to place an order for a bucket to experiment with a few weeks before your event.

- You may need to top up the water level in your vases on the day of your wedding to be sure that they have enough water, as they can be quite thirsty when they are first arranged.