

gown cleaning and preservation

Your wedding day is over...so now what?

Whether you opt for a professional dry cleaner, or you want to bring your gown back to me, I ALWAYS recommend that brides professionally clean and preserve their wedding dress. This prevents stains from permanently setting and can help prevent your gown from yellowing over time. If you are nervous about shipping your gown to a large cleaning/preservation company, I am happy to provide this service for you locally. Your wedding gown is special and deserves special treatment, which is why I only use safe and gentle non-toxic and biodegradable cleaning products, and I utilize archival materials and boxes for all gown preservations.

THE CLEANING PROCESS

Each gown is inspected by yours truly before I start the cleaning process. I assess all stains/discoloration and determine the best cleaning solution to tackle each one. In some cases, I may reach out to you to ask if you know what caused the stains (lipstick, oil, food, grass). All this information is extremely helpful in successfully removing stains. Your gown is then professionally cleaned individually and by hand (no harsh machines are used, and your gown is never cleaned alongside other gowns to prevent cross contamination). Finally, your gown is lightly steamed/pressed.

*While I cannot absolutely guarantee that 100% of visible stains will be removed, I am able to remove approximately 95% of all stains – including tar, blood, perspiration, grass, mud, grease, and food, being the most common, as well as any sugar stains from cake icing, wine and other beverages. In some cases, certain stains cannot be removed because they actually discolor the fibers of your dress. It is recommended you have your gown cleaned within 3 weeks of your event to prevent stains from setting. I can guarantee that your dress will be returned 100% CLEAN which means that the dress is fully sanitized and any remaining stains will not rub off on any other garments.

PRESERVATION

Once your gown is clean, I can begin the preservation process. I choose a box size based on your specific dress (you want it to fit snug so it doesn't move around). All preservation boxes are made from archival/acid-free materials. Preserved gowns are meant to stay in the box and should be stored in a temperature-controlled environment, away from humid climates and UV rays. I recommend storing in a closet or under the bed. Do not store in the garage, attic, or basement. Once opened and handled, your gown is no longer considered preserved.

PACKAGES

STANDARD GOWN CLEANING \$200

- Includes inspection, professional hand cleaning, and light steaming/pressing of gown and up to 5 accessories.

STANDARD PRESERVATION PACKAGE \$300 + sales tax

- Includes inspection, professional hand cleaning, and light steaming/pressing of gown and up to 5 accessories.
- Gown is packed with acid-free tissue paper in an archival quality box with an acid-free chamber and viewing window.
- Box size is chosen based on your specific gown size.

GOLD PRESERVATION PACKAGE \$375 + sales tax

- Includes inspection, professional hand cleaning, and light steaming/pressing of gown and up to 5 accessories.
- Gown receives white glove museum quality treatment and is wrapped in unbleached cotton muslin and acid-free tissue paper before being placed in a white acid-free, lignin-free, and sulfur-free archival box with silica packets.

*This box does not have a viewing window

- Your box comes with a muslin covering for added protection, and white cotton gloves for safe handling.

*Additional \$40 surcharge applies for 100% silk gowns

*ADD-ONS:

- repairs (cost will be quoted upon review of damages)
- debris removal (think leaves/twigs/thistles/etc)
- separate accessory preservation box \$35
- snag, pill, and/or fuzz removal (cost will be quoted upon review of damages)

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

1. Contact me to schedule a gown drop-off appointment. Drop-offs are done in Wilmington.
2. When you drop off your gown, you will select your desired cleaning or cleaning/preservation package. You will also be asked to mark any areas that have stains/spots that need special attention (the hem and train are always dirty, but if you have stains in other areas, please be sure to mark them). Payment in full is due upon gown drop-off.
3. After that, you can expect your gown to be completed within 6-8 weeks. You'll receive an email or text message upon completion, and we will coordinate a pickup date/time.