

## ~ Wedding Flowers Checklist~

Chicagoland Wedding Directory  
www.chicagolandwedding.com

Working with your florist can be fun and exciting with the right preparation. Here are our tips for preparing for florist interviews and working with your florist. Print as many copies of our *Wedding Flowers Checklist* as you need and take them with you!

Name of Florist:

Address:

Phone:

Your Flower Preferences:  
(bring pictures if you wish)

Bouquet Preferences:  
(ie: Nosegay, Hand-Tied, Cascade, etc.)

Your Colors:  
(bring pictures/swatches from  
your gown & bridesmaids' gowns)

Special Needs:  
(allergies, likes/dislikes, etc.)

Church/Chapel Floral Requirements:  
(ie: can flowers be placed at alter, can petals be dropped, etc.)

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Bridal Party	Quantity	Notes
Bride's Bouquet		
Bride's Throw-Away Bouquet		
Maid/Matron of Honor Bouquet		
Bridesmaids' Bouquets		
Groom's Boutonniere		
Best Man's Boutonniere		
Groomsmens' Boutonnieres		
Ushers' Boutonnieres		
Flower Girl's Personal Flowers (ie: bouquet, wand, head wreath, etc...)		
Flower Girl's Petal Drop (ie: rose petals for Flower Girl's basket)		
Ring Bearer's Bousonniere		

Family	Quantity	Notes
Bride's Mother's Corsage		
Groom's Mother's Corsage		
Bride's Father's Boutonniere		
Groom's Father's Boutonniere		
Bride's Grandmothers' Corsages		
Groom's Grandmothers' Corsages		
Bride's Grandfathers' Boutonnieres		
Groom's Grandfathers' Boutonnieres		
Bride's Godmother's Corsage		
Groom's Godmother's Corsage		
Bride's Godfather's Boutonniere		
Groom's Godfather's Boutonniere		

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<b>Corsage/Boutonniere's for Others</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Bride's Personal Attendant(s)		
Readers		
Servers		
Candle Lighters		
Soloists / Musicians		
Guest Book Attendant		
Others You Wish to Honor		

<b>Church / Ceremony Venue Decor</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Alter Arrangements		
Chuppah / Arch Flowers		
Pew Bows		
Entrance Arrangements		
Aisle Runner		
Loose Petals		

<b>Reception Venue Decor</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Head Table		
Guest Tables		
Gift Table		
Cake Table		
Guestbook Table		
Guest Placesettings		
Sweet Table		
Buffet Table		
Placecard Table		

Restrooms		
Coat Check		

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<b>Additional Items &amp; Fees</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Aisle Runner		
Unity Candles		
Balloons, Favors, Accessories		
Delivery/Transportation Fees		
Set-Up Fees		
Meat & Cheese Table		
Sweet Table		
Meat/Fruit/Cheese/Buffer Table		
Placecard Table		
Restrooms		
Coat Check		

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### Selecting Your Flowers and Working with Your Florist

While the hard and fast rules for using the "right" flower types and colors have long gone by the wayside, flower selection is still key in creating the right atmosphere for a wedding. Couples are encouraged to choose flowers and foliage for their *meaningfulness*, rather than sticking to rules or tradition. By incorporating your favorite flowers, favorite colors, flowers and foliage that remind you of a special place or time spent together, and even the meanings of different flowers, you add something very personal and special to your wedding day. That being said, there are some varieties of flowers and foliage that create beautiful, seasonal bouquets and arrangements.

- Summer offers a wide variety of whites and eye-popping, vibrant colors. Consider hyacinth, sunflowers, geraniums, calla lilies, orchids, dahlias, daisies, carnations, foxglove, chrysanthemum, bachelor buttons, and baby's breath, as well as roses, in a variety of colors. Clematis and climbing roses create dramatic archways.
- Autumn gives way to an exciting palette of rich, earthy tones and textures. Consider wrapping flowers and berries in rich shades of orange, rust, maroon, blue, and amber with a variety of branches, leaves and grasses in a contrasting mix of textures.
- Winter weddings can include many of the same traditional wedding flowers found throughout the seasons...roses, lilies, chrysanthemums, hydrangea, freesia, gardenias, snowball, etc...at not much higher a cost. Christmas weddings provide the perfect opportunity to exploit the rich reds and greens of the season in a selection of berries, evergreens, poinsettias, and holly branches, as well as holiday ribbons and ornaments for accent.. For non-holiday weddings, a variety of cool blues, silvers, whites and greens accented with eucalyptus, pine cones, ivy, fir branches, and wheat stalks truly speak the winter season.
- Spring rings anew with soft, gentle pastels. Consider shades of pink, baby blues, peaches, soft yellows and greens. Springtime favorites include roses, tulips, hyacinth, lilac, jonquils, wisteria, sweet pea, daffodils, Gerber daisies, day lilies, and multi-colored calla lilies, as well as sprigs from Dogwood, Crabapple, and other flowering trees nestled in soft to deep shades of green.

Lighting also plays a key role in flower selection and is a detail frequently overlooked by busy brides and grooms. An atmosphere filled with soft lighting or candlelight will set off warm, pastel shades...pinks, lilacs, whites, golds...while a bright, lively atmosphere will only be enhanced by richer, more vibrant pinks, golds, oranges, blues, and reds.

Above all... choose a florist with whom you feel comfortable working, a florist who will work with you in bringing your vision to light. If you tell your florist that you imagine bouquets of hand-tied wildflowers and he presents you with a nosegay of roses and carnations, then find another florist! At the same time, *listen* to what your florist has to say. A good florist will have a multitude of ideas for flower selection, bouquet arrangements, and display accents, as well as what is in...both in style and in season...and will work with you to give you the most that your budget will allow. She may very well also know what the rules and regulations of your particular church or chapel may be; many churches will require only fresh-cut flowers be placed on the alter, if they are allowed at all.

Begin interviewing florists at least three months prior to your wedding, longer if your wedding will take place during a peak season or holiday. When interviewing florists, be sure to bring pictures of your dress and bridesmaids' dresses, as well as swatches of fabric from both. Don't be afraid to bring clippings from magazines, a list of the flowers you like, and any requirements you may have for individual needs. If orchids make your mother-in-law sneeze, you won't (or shouldn't) want to pin one her shoulder! You may also want to ask your florist about aisle runners, flower girl baskets, unity candles, etc..., as well as fees for transportation, delivery, set-up, etc.... Don't be afraid to ask questions! And *always* get a written quote, including detailed instructions for payment terms and all associated fees.

Visit the Chicagoland Wedding Directory at [www.chicagolandwedding.com](http://www.chicagolandwedding.com)  
for more helpful wedding planning articles and worksheets.