

Bridesmaid WAYS



NO!
RACHEL AVERY,
ACTING FEATURES
WRITER AT Y&YW, SAYS:



YES!
SARAH ALLARD,
EDITOR OF
HITCHED.CO.UK, SAYS:

We tackle both sides of the most controversial wedding questions.
THIS TIME: Should a couple pay for the bridesmaids' dresses?

“Gone are the days when the bride’s parents had to finance every last thing for a wedding, so another nonsensical tradition that should be getting the boot is that a couple must pay for the bridesmaids’ outfits. Times are changing, and I don’t think it should be a big thing for your besties to pay for their own dresses. Many high-street brands have bridesmaid ranges, so wedding-worthy frocks are more accessible than ever before. That means asking your bridesmaids to cover the cost of their dresses isn’t exactly asking for the earth. Being a bridesmaid now comes with a world of opportunity. Sequins, splits, and even white gowns are totally acceptable

“YOUR MAIDS WILL KNOW HOW MUCH DEDICATED SAVING IT HAS TAKEN FOR YOU TO AFFORD THIS WEDDING”

forms of attire for bridesmaids these days, so why wouldn’t your girls rather pay for their own outfits and get a say in what they wear? In fact, mismatched bridesmaids are increasingly popular, so you could even send them off to choose their own (goodbye, stressful shopping trips!). Your maids will know how much dedicated saving (and, most importantly, serious cocktail rationing) it has taken for you and your partner to afford this epic wedding, so of course they’ll be understanding about their small contribution. Anyway, the other wedding guests aren’t asking you to cough up for their new Zara number for the big day, are they? Now, if you’re considering asking your bridal party to foot the bill for a handmade silk dress adorned with Swarovski crystals that they haven’t even seen before, then I suggest that you rethink your plan. In that case, it would only be fair for you to fund their outfits. But if we’re talking about a £50 beauty from ASOS that they’ll probably wear again next year to another event, then you should have no quibbles whatsoever about them paying.”

“Remember that time your best friend invited you to a party, but then asked you to pay for a ticket to enter her home and also pay for all your food and drink? No, you probably don’t, because that would be weird, and just a bit rude. Don’t get me wrong, I’m all for pals contributing on social occasions (a bottle of wine here, a pudding there) – but when it comes to a wedding, you don’t ask your guests for handouts, so why is it OK to make your bridesmaids pay for their dresses? Being asked to be someone’s bridesmaid is one of the most exciting questions to be popped. What could be better than your friend essentially saying, ‘On the most special day of my life, I consider you important enough to stand by my side’? Why, then, would you tarnish that lovely gesture by asking them to fork out for a dress in return? Yes, weddings can be expensive, and asking your girls to pay for their outfits could be seen as a clever way to save money. But if you’re asking them to pay, do you really have a say in the look? And what if one friend earns more than another and picks an expensive design? What if your bridesmaids choose dresses that you don’t like, or that don’t fit with your theme? Most brides I’ve met know exactly what they want their wedding to be – from the venue to the shade of lipstick they’ll wear, everything has been planned for months and months (in some cases, even long before the proposal!). Would you want to hand over the decision of what the bridesmaid dresses will look like? That, according to wedding etiquette, is what you would be doing by asking your maids to pay. If you’re getting married and you’re having bridesmaids, then be ready to decide which dresses they’ll be wearing – the ones you will be paying for!”

“WOULD YOU WANT TO HAND OVER THE DECISION OF WHAT THE BRIDESMAID DRESSES WILL LOOK LIKE?”

Join the debate! Let us know where you stand (on this and other wed-related issues) at facebook.com/youyourwedding, or talk it out at youandyourwedding.co.uk/forum