

MARTHA
STEWART

Living

A SPECIAL ISSUE FOR
THE BRIDE AND GROOM



WEDDINGS

ROSES BOUQUETS CAKES ETIQUETTE
DRESSES GOOD THINGS FAVORS



\$5.50 USA (CAN. \$6.50)

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Some brides are concerned that they have to get their dress cleaned right away, and ask the cleaner to pick it up at the wedding, according to Wayne Edelman, the owner of Meurice Garment Care in New York City, which works on about five hundred wedding dresses each year. But such precautions aren't necessary, and there's no harm in waiting until after the honeymoon. "A couple of weeks won't make any difference, unless you had a disaster and spilled red wine all over your dress," he says.

After your dress has been cleaned and restored, it should be pressed, even if it will be spending the next few decades in a box. Then it should be packed in acid-free tissue, and placed in an acid-free box to prevent any discoloration of the fabric. Your dress should not be pinned or strapped into a box; doing so could leave marks on the fabric. Any foam-rubber bra pads should be removed, because they will disintegrate over time and could discolor the bodice. A desiccant, such as clay or silica gel, will be added to absorb any moisture. After your dress is boxed, it should be stored under a bed in a room where the temperature will be neither too cold nor too warm.

While it is not necessary, Edelman says some purists recommend that you refold your dress once a year so you don't get permanent creases. He suggests wearing cotton gloves, so oils from your skin don't stain the dress.