Guide to Evening Wedding Attire

Wedding Style	Bride	Bridesmaids	Groom & Attendants	Mothers
Very Formal Evening 200 guests or more After 6 PM	Dress with a long train. Veil to complement dress, often long or full. Long sleeves or gloves to cover arms. Shoes to match dress. Full bouquet or flower-trimmed prayer book.	Four to twelve. Long dresses, short veils, or other headpieces, gloves to complement sleeve length. Any style bouquet, shoes to match or harmonize.	Traditional: Full dress tailcoat with matching trousers, white waistcoat, white bow tie, wing- collared shirt. (Optional: Black top hat, white gloves.) Contemporary: Black contoured long or short jacket, wing collared shirt.	Floor length evening dinner dresses. Small hats. Shoes, gloves, and flowers harmonize.
Formal Evening 100 guests or more, After 6 PM	Long dress with a chapel or sweep train. Veil of a length to complement dress. Accessories the same as those for very formal wedding.	Two to six. Similar to very formal, but dresses are sometimes short. Gloves are optional.	Traditional: Dark dinner jacket with matching trousers, dress shirt, bow tie, vest, or cummerbund. (Optional: White or ivory jackets in summery climate.) Contemporary: Same as formal daytime. Groomsmen coordinate with similar ensembles.	Dinner dresses, usually long. Small hats, shoes, gloves, and flowers harmonizing with dresses.
Semi-formal Evening 100 guests or fewer, home chapel	Trainless, floor length or shorter dress white or pastel. Veil, elbow length or shorter. Same accessories as for a formal wedding, but simpler bouquet is used.	Seldom more than one, plus an honor attendant. Elaborate, street length dresses. Small bouquets.	Traditional: Favorite suit, white, colored, or striped shirt, four-in-hand tie. Contemporary: Dinner jacket of formal suit, dress shirt, bow tie, vest, or cummerbund.	Elaborate street length dresses with appropriate accessories.
Informal Evening	Suit or street dress. Hat, gloves, shoes, and bag. Nosegay or flowers to wear.	Maid of honor only. Dress or suit similar to brides. Flowers to wear.	Same as semi- formal.	Dresses or suits similar to honor attendant's.