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Fitness Tips For Looking Your Best On Your Wedding Day

By Lynn Bode

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by: **Lynn Bode**

Every bride wants to look perfect on her wedding day. Selecting a dress that will make you look and feel great is an important first step. But what happens when you look in the mirror and don't think you look quite as good as you could? When this happens it's not uncommon for brides to try quick-fix diets to help them get in shape. Unfortunately, many dieting brides make fitness mistakes that not only prevent them from reaching their goals but also cause unnecessary stress and sometimes even illness. Those are two things no bride needs! Here are five of the most common diet mistakes as well as some tips to help you avoid them.

1. Too much, too late.

One of the most important things to remember if you are trying to lose weight is to start early. For example, don't try to lose 20 pounds two months before the big day. The key is to plan ahead so that you can lose the weight (or just tone up) gradually. So if your dream-wedding day includes you being in great shape, then include fitness as a "to-do" on your overall wedding checklist. That way it will be a priority in your wedding planning.

2. Setting unachievable goals.

Many women get engaged and begin imagining themselves drastically thinner or more sculpted. Be realistic with yourself. If you've never been a size 6 in your life, then it is probably unrealistic to think you can magically transform just because you are getting married. And, do you really want to look so different on your wedding day that most people (including your fiancé) hardly recognize you?

3. Radical diets or fitness programs.

Brides typically are short on time and long on to-do lists. This leads many to try unhealthy fitness programs or starvation diets. Don't be tempted by diets that promise quick, drastic results with little

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effort from you. You should avoid any programs that suggest taking "diet" pills or eating unbalanced meals (like eating only cabbage soup for a week). And, don't be lured into trying dangerous things, like laxatives.

4. Not exercising.

It's very easy for brides to say "I don't have time to exercise" or "I'm too tired to exercise". But diet and exercise should always go hand in hand. Consider them to be like yin and yang. Without activity your body can't burn as many calories. If you are very short on time, try to exercise in small 10-minute bursts throughout the day. And, keep in mind that little things help too, like taking the stairs or parking at the outer edge of the mall parking lot. Plus, if you are tired from all of your planning, exercise will help give you back some energy.

5. Skipping Meals

It's not uncommon to get caught up in your planning and then realize at 9 p.m. (as your head begins to ache) that you haven't eaten a thing all day. While it may not be an uncommon scenario, it is unavoidable. Not only is skipping meals unhealthy, it can lead to binge eating. That often means eating very fattening foods and/or overeating all at once. To avoid this, try packing light snacks to keep on hand throughout the day. Good examples include carrot sticks, cheese strings, peanut butter on crackers, etc.

Getting in shape doesn't have to be complicated and it doesn't require a lot of time. If you are trying to lose weight or firm up before your wedding, below are some sample plans to help you get started. Keep in mind that the most important thing is for a bride to feel good about herself. And no matter what size or shape, all brides are beautiful on their wedding day!

Sample Exercise FITscription:

20 - 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise (3 - 5 time per week)

Example: 2-5 minutes of brisk walking, 2-5 minutes of jumping jacks (repeat for 20 - 30 minutes)

Sample Meal Plan:

Eat 5-7 small meals per day (meals should include protein, grains, vegetables, etc. to meet the food pyramid daily requirements)

Example: Small, grilled, skinless chicken breast

Slice of whole wheat bread

Slice of cheese

Mixed Vegetables

Glass of Water (2 or 3 would be even better)

Lynn Bode is owner of

an Online Personal Fitness Training company.

Workouts For You offers online exercise programs for weight loss, strength training, nutritional

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planning and race training. Personalized programs can be designed for all fitness levels. The programs are customized to meet your individual needs and lifestyle (based on the extensive profile you provide when enrolling) and include a motivational accountability system and a huge library of exercise technique demos. You receive all the trainer benefits without the expensive price, and you can workout wherever and whenever you want.

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Planning Your Wedding

By Sharon Stajda

Tips to Avoid Turning It Into A One-Sided Affair

You just got the most romantic marriage proposal of your life. You said yes, of course. News of your engagement spreads among family and friends and you can't wait for the day when the two of you exchange I do's.

Planning your wedding can be exciting. Important decisions need to be made. However, don't get too caught up in your wedding plans that you forget to involve the other most important person in the event - your groom. You can avoid turning your wedding day into a one-sided affair. Here are some tips:

1. When you plan your wedding, plan it as a couple. This is a prelude to your married life - everything needs to be decided together. Discuss your thoughts and come up with a plan that makes both of you satisfied and comfortable.
2. Don't let your and your groom's differences in religious beliefs and race be an obstacle. Consider having a double-ceremony wedding wherein you receive wedding blessings from both traditions.
3. How formal do you both want your wedding? Decide if you both want a formal black-and-white affair or a semi-formal one? What about having a wedding theme? Consider both of your lifestyles and interests when deciding on this aspect of your wedding.
4. Discuss the monetary aspect of your wedding. As a couple, the two of you should agree on the expenses involved in the wedding. Decide on a wedding budget and stick to it no matter what. Remember, financial stress after the wedding is over can lead to trouble.

Planning a wedding can be a source of stress. It can even take its toll on you as a couple. However, don't let the stress rule love. Remember, the key thing is to enjoy your wedding. It is your special day that you will treasure forever.

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