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**Using Silk Flowers – Should I?**

**By Ginger Ruoff**

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Many of the silk flowers available for bridal bouquets today look so real only the bride knows for sure whether they are. Using silk flowers in the bridal bouquet may not be for every bride, but many are taking a second look at the advantages.

One of the best reasons for choosing silk flowers for the wedding bouquet is that the beauty of the flowers will remain the same for many tomorrows as it looks today. Too often with a fresh cut bouquet, saving it means drying the bouquet. If you are not adept at drying flowers, they may even end up with mold spots. Even if they are dried appropriately, the colors will be faded. You can get a fresh cut bouquet freeze dried to perpetuate the true colors, but it must be done by a professional and can be expensive. Silk flowers will not wilt, mold, or fade on your wedding day or over the years that pass.

If you choose to have a silk flower wedding, you can plan and order your bouquets far in advance of the wedding. Most brides are very busy in the month before the wedding. Having to coordinate with a florist to have fresh cut flowers delivered to the wedding venue is just one more pressure point on the countdown. Also, if the fresh cut flowers do not look like you envisioned, when you get them it is often too late to change anything. When you order your silk flower bouquets as far in advance as six months before the wedding, you have plenty of time to ask for changes or to order extra pieces if other honored guests appear on your list.

Finally, in terms of the wedding budget, a silk flower wedding can be more economical than fresh cut flowers. The flowers you like are always "in season." Prices are not bumped by seasonal changes. Also, because you will be able to order at a time that you wish to, you can pay for the flower expense months ahead of other expenses that will necessarily come right before the wedding.

Whatever choices you make about your wedding flowers – silk flower or fresh cut – a good wedding flower designer will help you create beauty in your wedding bouquet.

Ginger designs custom-styled bridal bouquets and wedding packages for brides. Visit her website <http://www.bridalsilkbouquets.homestead.com> for ideas.

## How To Buy Silk Flowers In 2 Easy Steps

By Ryan Tenney

I bet you are frustrated over the lack of information on how to buy silk flowers. It seems like every website that I visit either wants to sell me some silk flowers or they want to upgrade me to an even bigger sale. There are literally thousands of information sources offline and online, but it sure is hard digging through them all. So, I sat down and did the research so you don't have to. Silk flowers are beautiful and when put in the right scene, they can really make all the difference. Here's two tips to help you get a good deal on silk flowers.

1) Ebay is your friend for a whole lot of reasons (pun intended). Given that something like 90 million people visit the Ebay website everyday, you've probably done some shopping or at least browsing of Ebay to look for stuff to buy. There are tons of Ebay sellers selling everything: including silk flowers. If nothing else, it's a great way to gauge the market. You don't have to bid, you can just look and watch the sales happen. Just do a search for "silk flowers" and take a look at how many listings pop up. In fact, a lot of these Ebay sellers have their own Ebay stores where you can browse through everything they offer. Plenty of them sell silk flowers and other items at substantial discounts. This can be especially handy information if you are looking to buy a large wholesale quantity of silk flowers for a wedding. Big sellers have their own stores and you can really find some good deals.

2) Buy silk flowers piece by piece. Make them yourselves. Here's a secret not everyone is gonna let you in on: making silk flowers yourself isn't that hard. If you are handy with fabric, scissors, and thread, you might consider making some silk flowers yourself. You'll save the extra labor charge that is incorporated into the silk flowers themselves. This is a great idea for people who have a little more time than money and are willing to use their hands to make beautiful silk flowers. Think of it like this: you are buying silk flowers, only at a substantial discount.

Ryan Tenney is author of "A Quick Guide to Buying Silk Flowers." Grab your copy at

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