



Here are some helpful FAQ's that will aid you in every step of your journey with Meliza Mary. From your first appointment to buying your wedding dress, having it altered and taking it home to enjoy on your special day.

Question 1.

Do I need to book an appointment?

Yes. My studio is run on a strictly appointment only basis to ensure all my brides are given my full attention. You are welcome to call or email me to discuss what you are looking for; however, it is best to rather book an appointment. Seeing a dress and trying it on gives you a far better idea of what suits your body type, figure, and style.

Question 2.

How do the fittings work at Meliza Mary?

Fittings and appointments are private and are between an hour and an hour and a half long. During an appointment, you are welcome to try on as many styles as you wish within the time allocated to you. While trying on the different styles, I will assist you in choosing the right gown, as well as advising you on what I believe best suits you.

Question 3.

How long in advance do I need to buy my wedding dress?

To allow yourself time to choose from every possible option, I would recommend you start shopping at least 6 months prior to your Wedding date. This is not a hard and fast rule as each store varies with their delivery times and available stock. Custom made Meliza Mary designs require at least 2 months, but a request for rush orders will be considered. All Pre-Loved and sample gowns are available immediately and the imported range requires between a 2 and 4 months for delivery. While a dress can be purchased in under a week, we would recommend, for your own peace of mind, you start to shop around for your gown as early as possible.

Question 4.

What prices do your wedding dresses sell for?

The Imported range of gowns varies from R8000 to R24000. Pre-loved dresses are priced at 65% of their original purchase price and on average they sell for between R4000 and R12000. These prices exclude any alterations. All custom gowns are quoted according to the amount of work and detail required, and on average start at R12000 plus fabric and go up from there.

Question 5.

What should I bring with me to my appointment?

Bring pictures of dresses you like from the internet; Pinterest, in magazines or that you've tried on elsewhere. Wear a nude and preferably fuller pair of panties with a strapless bra that you don't mind baring to your sales lady. Bring a camera to help in the process of elimination. I gladly welcome you to take photos of your favorite gowns, allowing you to compare and make a sound decision. Lastly, bring an open mind and a positive self-esteem. You will try on gowns that look great on you and gowns that don't suit you at all; it is all part of the journey, so don't let the ugly ones get you down.

Question 6.

Who should I bring with me to my appointment?

I would advise you enjoy this experience with the person or people closest to you. Consider whose opinion you value the most like a sister, best friend or mother. Bringing too many people can take the focus off you and bring far too many differing opinions. This environment can cause you to be confused and therefore disappointed with the experience. If you wish to bring a large party, it is advised to do so during your second complementary fitting when showing off only your favorite choices that have already got your approval.

Question 7.

What size wedding dresses are available at Meliza Mary?

At all times I endeavor to have stock available in every size. When Purchasing an Imported gown, the size of the sample is irrelevant, as long as I can show you what it will look like on you, a new gown will be ordered in your size. Custom gowns are made to measure, so size variety is no issue here. Pre-Loved gowns vary between size 6 & 16.

Question 8.

Why are Pre-loved dresses worth considering when shopping for my wedding dress?

All my Pre-Loved dresses are in excellent condition and marketed at a discounted price. Wedding gowns can be expensive when shopping around. Buying a Pre-Loved gown allows you to get a higher quality gown for a lower price, giving you the gown you want at an affordable price.

Question 9.

Can I rent my wedding gown from Meliza Mary?

I do not rent out my Wedding dresses. Hiring a gown can be risky and I advise against it. In my experience in hiring out gowns, there is no guarantee that the dress will be returned in a reusable state. If you are using a gown after another bride, the risk is not only mine, but now also becomes yours. No bride should have to wear a damaged or ruined dress because of an accident she or the store owner could not control. I recommend rather purchasing a gown, look after it, and re-sell after the Wedding.

Question 10.

Can I resell my wedding dress through Meliza Mary?

Yes, I am always open to reviewing any dress as a potential Pre-Loved contender. Due to limited space and a high standard of quality, I do not accept every dress that is offered to me.

If it is a gown I am able to take, I will re-sell it on your behalf and you will receive the payment once the dress has been sold. You will get 40% back of the original price you paid.

Question 11.

When should I buy my veil and other accessories?

I always say that an accessory is used to enhance your wedding dress features. Whether you find this special add on when you first purchase your gown or afterward, all that matters is that it works with your wedding dress look and feel. For those brides who haven't thought about the veil and other accessories until it is time to start your alterations, you are welcome to discuss this with me at your first fitting. Custom veils, stoles and garters are available on request. Otherwise you can choose from our stock of stoles, garters and new or Pre-Loved veils, available to purchase or hire (hiring excludes garters).

Question 12.

When should I schedule my first alteration fitting?

In most cases, we recommend starting alterations 5 weeks before your Wedding day. You should contact us 2 months prior to your Wedding to schedule your alteration fitting dates to avoid disappointment.

Question 13.

What should I bring to my first alteration fitting?

Bring the shoes and underwear you will wear on your Wedding day, in order to have your gown properly fitted. If you've already chosen your jewelry you are welcome to bring it along to ensure it compliments your dress.

Question 14.

How many fittings will I need?

Usually, brides require 2-3 fittings to ensure a perfect fit. After the final fitting a collection date and time will be made. The gown will be steamed and prepped before hand over for your special day.

Question 15.

Are alteration costs included in the price I paid for my wedding dress?

Alterations are excluded from the wedding dress price. On average, they vary between R500 – R1000. With regards to any additional haberdashery/detail that has to be added to your dress, Meliza Mary will assist you in finding the ideal fabric at your expense.

Question 16.

After my wedding day, who can I take my dress to have it be cleaned?

Meliza Mary offers wedding dress cleaning services. The cost varies from R350 to R550, depending on how dirty the gown is.

Question 17.

How do I store my wedding dress after my big day?

I would recommend you have the dress thoroughly cleaned before storing it in a breathable dress bag. You should keep the dress either folded neatly in a clean kist, ensuring you haven't bent any boning, or hanging in a mold free cupboard. It is a good idea to take it out every few months to breath. This will avoid the dress taking on a musty smell. For good measure, try it on every now and then, reminisce and don't get upset if it doesn't fit anymore, every bride drops weight before her big day. A little extra weight after the wedding only shows a happy marriage.