

## The Dress Code Breakdown

- **White Tie (Ultimate Formal)**
  - **Men**
    - Black dress coat w/tailcoat
    - Matching trousers with a single stripe of satin or braid (in the US)
    - Matching trousers with two stripes of satin or braid (in Europe)
    - White pique wing-collared shirt with stiff front
    - Shirt studs and cuff links
    - White vest
    - White bow tie
    - White or gray gloves
    - Black patent shoes
    - Black dress socks
  - **Women:**
    - Formal/floor length evening gown
    - Long gloves (optional)
- **Black Tie (Formal)**
  - **Men**
    - Black tuxedo jacket and matching trousers
    - Formal (pique' or pleated front) white shirt
    - Shirt studs and cuff links
    - Black bow tie (silk, satin, or twill)
    - Black cummerbund to match tie, or a vest
    - Dressy braces to ensure a good fit (optional)
    - No gloves
    - Black patent shoes and black dress socks
    - In summer, in the tropics, or on a cruise:
      - White dinner jacket, black tuxedo trousers plus black-tie wardrobe
  - **Women**
    - Formal (floor length) evening gown
    - Dressy cocktail dress
    - Your dressiest "little black dress"
- **Black Tie Optional**
  - **Men**
    - Tuxedo (see "Black Tie" above)
    - Dark Suit, white dress shirt, and conservative tie
    - Leather dress shoes and dark dress socks
  - **Women**
    - Formal (floor length) evening gown
    - Dressy Cocktail Dress
    - Your dressiest "little black dress"
    - Dressy separates

- **Semiformal**
  - **Men**
    - Dark business suit
    - Matching vest (optional)
    - Dress shirt
    - Tie
    - Leather dress shoes and dark dress socks
  - **Women**
    - Short cocktail dress
    - A “little black dress”
    - Long dressy skirt and top
    - Dressy separates
- **Dressy Casual**
  - **Men**
    - Seasonal sport coat or blazer, and slacks
    - Dress shirt, casual button-down shirt, open collar or polo shirt
    - Optional tie
  - **Women**
    - Dress
    - Skirt and dressy top
    - Dressy pants outfit
    - Nice jeans and dressy top

**Reference: Emily Post Institute-** <https://emilypost.com/advice/attire-guide-dress-codes-from-casual-to-white-tie/>.

### **The Dress Code Verbiage Etiquette**

- The wedding invitation presentation/etiquette sets the standard for the dress code
  - If the invitation is very fancy... guests will anticipate a formal, black-tie affair and it must be included on the invitation to ensure guests are fully informed and meet expectations
  - If the invitation is more casual/simpler... guests will anticipate a more casual dress code if the invitation does not state it
- The dress code is located on the lower right-hand corner of the invitation