

DIRECTORY

Mum doesn't always know best

Wedding outfits must be chosen with great care

The bride's mother has one of the most prominent roles at a wedding. Playing a close supporting role to the bride with plenty of photo opportunities, she will want to look her best.

"Mothers of brides are often overwhelmed by outfit choices and may forget the dos and don'ts," says Eve Roth Lindsay, managing director of style consultancy Colour Me Beautiful.

Common misjudgements include wearing the same colour as the bridal party to match the theme.

"It would be much better to pick something that complements the main colour or go for a print using the wedding colours," Lindsay says.

"You don't want to be the one

Pedder Group Stuart Weitzman jewelled suede ballerinas in sand (right)



standing out in the wedding photos, so be a wise mother and pick a hue that matches the overall motif. As long as you are staying in the same colour spectrum, you are safe.

"A good rule of thumb is to put on



Pedder Group Jimmy Choo Isabel peep toe pump in champagne (left)

anything on the neutral palette. Beige, grey, charcoal, brown, navy and taupe are classic colours that will never go wrong and will give you a sense of elegance and poise."

And there is a fine line between

Classic style for the mother of the bride



dressing for your age and making the look too young or too old.

"Go for unique pieces that have beautiful embroidery and patterns that make you look and feel great. Avoid being too revealing or slinky," Lindsay says.

When it comes to accessorising, consider the style of the wedding.

Trends in footwear include subtle metallic and jewelled single sole pumps and sandals, while clutch bags are appropriate for the occasion and can be used at casual events after the wedding, says Christian Laverne, general merchandise manager at Pedder Group.

Feminine pumps in light colours, such as nude or a subtle metallic champagne or silver, are ideal for a large, formal wedding, says Laverne. A beach or garden wedding requires a different type of footwear.

"Flat metallic sandals or neutral coloured bejewelled ballerinas should be worn to avoid sinking into sand or grass. Elegant summer hats can be worn but should be removed during the ceremony," Laverne says.

"Accessories are the perfect way to bring personality to your outfit. However, select your accessories carefully and remember that less is more."