

Pine & Peony



STYLE GUIDE

Getting your pictures taken should be as stress free and enjoyable as possible. But what's one of the most stressful parts? Picking outfits. If you've ever tried to coordinate clothing for family photos, you know the nightmare. And if you feel like you're someone who doesn't really have the "eye" for that kind of thing it really makes the stress go up even more.

My goal is always for you to have the most enjoyable experience with me ever, beginning from when you first ask about photos, all the way until they're up on your wall. If clothing is something that stresses you out, and even if it isn't, this guide is for you.



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TIPS

Styling your photoshoot

Whether you're booking a family session or a couple session, I have some helpful tips for you. Always keep in mind that I want you to do what works for you, and if my tips don't, that's totally fine. These are just some tips to follow if you're starting from square one!



Do your research. Hop on Pinterest and browse. Start with a nice broad search such as "engagement photos". This is also a great time to notice what kind of shots you like, editing style, and maybe can have some influence on who you hire.

Pick your favorite colors. Is there a color that stood out to you during your research as one you just loved? For me, it would probably be baby blue or white. Take note of what your favorite colors are.



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Try some things on. Whatever colors you picked as your favorites, you need to try them on. Bring a friend or a sister, whoever will be honest with you, for an outside eye to tell you what color looks better. You can even send me pictures!

Make your palette. Once you've chosen your main color, you're going to build a palette of about 3-4 colors around that. So let's say I chose baby blue as my main color. The rest of my palette will have two neutrals and an accent color. So I might choose baby blue as my main, navy and white as my neutrals, and dusty mauve for my accent color. The easiest way to do this is also Pinterest. Search for a color palette that features your top color, and you'll have a ton of options come up for the other colors that would look good with that one.

Pick your style. What outfits you pick are going to be influenced by what kind of photos you want. If we're doing an in-home, intimate type of session, think cozy. If it's an engagement session, think jeans and a nice blouse. Make sure your outfits are also season appropriate! It looks a little funky to be wearing spring and summer clothes in the fall.

Contrast is key. All outfits need to have contrast in them. Whether that's in colors, textures, or styles. But both of your outfits also need to have some contrast with each other's. So if you pick a white top to wear, consider dark jeans with it. And for your partner, a dark top with a pattern maybe. Contrast is also applicable to the location. If the location we're shooting at is forested with a lot of green colors, stay away from green. You want to stand out from the background as much as possible. It's for this exact reason that I frequently recommend white as one of your colors! It stands out beautifully and pretty much everyone looks good in it!

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Keep it simple, stupid. We're following the Michael Scott philosophy of KISS, or keep it simple, stupid. Obviously, whatever your dream photos are I want you to have them. But sometimes ideas don't look the way you thought they would. I always recommend you try to keep it simple. Wear clothes you're comfortable in, with not too much upkeep or maintenance to do during the shoot, and avoid small geometric patterns as these tend to be distorted in the camera.

Be true to you. These are your photos. They should look and feel like you. Don't try to be something you're not for the sake of following these rules. Not only will you like your photos more if you stay consistent to your style, but chances are you won't have to buy all new outfits.

And that's it! If you've tried all of these things and are still feeling stuck, never hesitate to reach out to me and ask for help.

We'll get you the perfect outfits for your photos in no time!

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