

YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Now that you have picked a date, a photographer and probably a venue as well, you can celebrate! Those are some of the toughest decisions in wedding planning and you can cross them off your list! Hooray!! Now on to the fun stuff...like your engagement session!

I include engagement sessions in The Wedding Experience because I truly believe that they are a VITAL part of the entire process. During your engagement session, you'll have the chance to get to know me, experience how I shoot and how I handle posing and lighting. This session will make a HUGE impact on how the wedding day flows. I'll arrive on your wedding day already knowing how you two interact, what your best poses are and how to photograph you in a genuine way! What I will learn about you during your engagement session is invaluable! You will feel like such a pro on your big day because of the great practice you had during your engagement session!

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I normally suggest booking it at least 3-6 months in advance to avoid stress. Because our weekends are filled with weddings, I shoot engagement sessions on weekday evenings, normally from 6-8pm depending on the light and the time of the year. In the winter months, 4-6pm is a normal time frame for an engagement shoot!

As you start to plan for your engagement shoot, you will need to start brainstorming about location ideas. I LOVE it when couples pick a location that is special or sentimental to them in some way! If you can't think of anywhere specific that you would like to shoot, I can help you decide on a location. As long as the light is great, I can make ANY location look awesome! I shoot at farms, campuses, downtown alleys and even your home! Do not shy away from unique ideas. The more creative, the better! Be sure to keep reading to find out more about outfit ideas and inspiration!

ENGAGEMENT PREP

It's always a little intimidating to have your picture taken...even if it's just a photo on an iPhone that is taken by a friend. We still want to look nice, make sure nothing is in our teeth and that our hair is behaving! I realize that preparing for your engagement session can be a little overwhelming. Over the next few pages, I'll be providing tips for outfits, handling nerves and recommendations that will make your shoot the best it can possibly be!



the basics + what to bring

POCKETS | Empty your pockets! You don't want to have key chains or phones showing through your pockets. This is easy to overlook but very hard to edit out.

TIMING | The sun sets quickly especially if your shoot is not in the summer months. The later you arrive, the less time we have to shoot! Once the sun is set, the shoot will be over.

RING CLEANING | If possible, it is ideal to clean your ring before your shoot. I love to shoot a few macro shots of your diamond while you change outfits! The cleaner the better.

CHANGING CLOTHES | As much as I would like to say that we always have restrooms for outfit changes, more often than not, our clients do quick outfit changes in their car if there are no other options.

DEEP BREATHS | I'm going to help you along the way and it's going to be a blast! I will instruct you on everything you need to know. Enjoy this time together, and make a date out of it! Plan dinner afterwards and celebrate!!

PARKING FEE or PARK ENTRANCE FEE | This may not apply to your shoot, but you always want to plan in advance for a cash-only parking fee or state park entrance fee that we may encounter. We've had instances where this has caused some stress, and stress is what we want to avoid.

CLOTHING | I'll explain this more in-depth in the next few pages but generally, our couples like to bring one casual outfit and one dressier outfit. If you're unsure about a few pieces, feel free to bring all options, and I can help you decide or we can email about it beforehand!

LIP COLOR & HAIRSPRAY | You may need to apply more lip color after one outfit change and a few kisses. (If you have a bold lip color, try to have a matte finish so it won't transfer to your groom as intensely!). Hairspray and a brush will be helpful if your hair struggles!

FLIP FLOPS | If you're wearing shoes that are difficult to walk in but look awesome, bring some comfy shoes to change into while we walk to each shooting location!



OUTFITS & STYLING

Believe it or not, you have so much control over the outcome of your shoot and what it looks and feels like! What you choose to wear is a big decision that often causes some stress for the bride beforehand. However, my hope is that with a little education, you will be able to determine the style and feel you desire for your shoot which will make your outfit selection so much easier and less complicated! Let's start by debunking some very common outfit myths that a lot of people believe about what they should wear to their session!

outfit myths:

1. MYTH ONE: *Avoid neutrals, they wash you out!*

Whoever started this myth couldn't have been further from the truth. There are some colors that don't work for some people, but for the majority of people, they look amazing in neutrals and those colors shouldn't be avoided. The truth is, neutrals are the most photogenic color for portraits.

2. MYTH TWO: *Always wear black or you won't look thin!*

Sure, black is slimming, but it also photographs very heavy in portraits. There is nothing wrong with black, but if you're only wearing it to look thinner and deep down you're hoping for light and airy portraits, it may not be the best choice.

3. MYTH THREE: *You two need to match!*

Please don't try to match your significant other. Instead, try to coordinate! Coordinating is a completely different concept than "matching." Coordination means you are usually choosing different colors that look good together but are not close to being the same. I have some more tips about this concept in the following pages.

4. MYTH FOUR: *Your location determines your style more than your outfit!*

False! Your outfit has way more impact than your location. Your location is just a setting in the background but you two will still be the main focus of the images. If you want light, airy and an overall romantic look to your photos, you will need to wear lighter, more neutral colors in your photos to achieve this look!

5. MYTH FIVE : *You have to buy something new!*

False! If you know you look awesome in an outfit that you already have and it fits the style you want for your engagement session, that would be a great choice!