

# 5 ways TO PLAN THE PERFECT SAME-SEX WEDDING



Rivenhall Oaks' events organiser Kelly Hunter offers her advice on creating the day of your dreams for you and your partner

If you're reading this, chances are you or your partner has just proposed and you're both on cloud nine after deciding to spend the rest of your lives together. Amazing! There is a lot of advice about weddings surrounding brides and grooms, but what about when there are two grooms or two brides? There will always be questions surrounding 'who wears the dress' or 'can we both have separate stag dos'. It can be difficult knowing wedding etiquette for a civil partnership or same sex wedding, especially if you have not been to one before. However, the process doesn't need to be stressful or confusing. Read on for our advice!

## 1. BE UNIQUE

Firstly, it should be noted that planning a same sex wedding isn't any different to organising a heterosexual wedding. However, you're less bound by unspoken rules and long-standing traditions, which gives you the freedom to make your day exactly how you want it. The chances are that many of your guests won't have attended a civil ceremony before, and so there will be no expectations or 'right and wrongs' for the day. Embrace it!

## 2. CHECK THE VENUE

It may have been five years since same sex marriages were legalised in the UK, however not all registered venues hold a license for civil ceremonies or same-sex weddings. When organising a visit to view your dream venue, make sure you call ahead to ask if they hold a license to avoid disappointment. Put this at the top of your list of potential questions you would like to ask. This should include things such as whether the venue is free on your chosen date, or how many guests they can hold.

## 3. PLAN THE CEREMONY

The ceremony is the most important bit of the

whole day, so you need to make sure everything is planned correctly. Firstly, consider how you will both enter the ceremony, whether you want to walk separately or together up the aisle, or not at all. Secondly, civil ceremonies don't tend to be religious, but you may still choose to have readings from family and friends – whether it's a religious passage or one of your favourite poems. Lastly, add a special touch to the moment by writing your own vows! This will reflect your love for one another and demonstrate your commitment to your marriage.

## 4. DECIDE WHAT TO WEAR

Probably one of the most commonly asked questions surrounding lesbian weddings is 'who will wear the dress?', but there is no right or wrong answer to this. You can both choose to wear a dress, or equally, both decide not to! This is all down to personal style and what you both feel comfortable wearing. This also applies to grooms, as many couples choose to get creative with their suits by co-ordinating colours or choosing something that reflects their personalities. It's always best though to plan your outfits together so that you don't clash in your wedding pictures!

## 5. CHOOSE YOUR BRIDAL PARTY

There are many options when it comes to your bridal party (one of which is not calling it a bridal party when you're both grooms!). Roles shouldn't be defined by gender. You can choose to have a gender-mixed party made up of all your closest friends and family that you want standing beside you for this special moment. Similarly, this can be applied to your pre-wedding celebrations too. Instead of having separate hen or stag dos, many couples are opting for joint events that let you celebrate together.



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