

WEDDING CUSTOMS (THESE ARE NOT HALACHOT!)

Wedding Customs: Couple Separates for Seven Days

The couple does not see each other for seven days before the wedding. They may speak on the phone.

Wedding Customs: The Aufruf

On the Shabbat before the wedding, the groom has an aufruf at which he receives an aliya.

Wedding Customs: What the Bride Buys

The bride buys for the groom:

- Talit and kittel,
- Watch, and
- Set of the Talmud.

She also pays for the wedding except for what the groom pays for (see below).

Wedding Customs: What the Groom Buys

The custom is for the groom to pay for the band, photos, video, flowers, liquor, and wine.

NOTE In Eretz Yisrael, it is customary for the bride and groom to split the wedding expenses.

Wedding Customs: Prenuptial Agreement

A prenuptial agreement is permitted but it must state that the ketuba gets settled separately.

Wedding Customs: Groom to Mikva

The groom goes to mikva on the wedding day.

Wedding Customs: Wedding Shomer

The groom and bride each have a guardian (*shomer/shomeret*) with them from daybreak of the wedding day (some grooms have a *shomer* from the aufruf) until they are married.

Wedding Customs: Tanayim

Tanayim are written before the main ceremony and two guests are honored as witnesses. The tanayim are read out loud.

Wedding Customs: Accompanying the Bride and Groom

There are various customs about who accompanies the bride and groom but none are *halachically* required.

Wedding Customs: Chuppa

The chuppa should be under the open sky (via a skylight) or outdoors where practical.

Wedding Customs: Bride Circles Groom

The bride walks seven times around the groom counterclockwise, as seen from above, and stands on the right side of the groom.

Wedding Customs: Baruch HaBa

Someone sings baruch ha'ba... for the groom and brucha ha'ba'ah for the bride.

Wedding Customs: Drinking the Wine

The mesader kidushin does not drink the cup of wine but the bride and groom normally do.

Wedding Customs: Wedding Ring

It is not traditional for the bride to give a ring to the groom, and it is forbidden for the bride to give a ring to the groom at the chuppa.

Wedding Customs: Reading of the Ketuba

After the blessings on the wine have been said and the wine has been drunk, the ketuba is read. This separates the two sets of blessings.

Wedding Customs: Second Cup of Wine

The second cup of wine is given to the groom by the father of the bride and to the bride by the mother of the groom.