

# 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.