



## PREPARING FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT SHOOT



### SCHEDULING YOUR SHOOT

If you plan to use your engagement photos for your **save the dates**, we will schedule your shoot at least four weeks prior to when you wish to send out your save the dates.

It takes a week to process your images and you'll want a few weeks to pick and print your save the dates.

Save the dates are normally sent four or more months prior to your wedding day, so your shoot will be five or more months before your wedding day.

For couples using photos for their **guest book**, your shoot will need to be five or more weeks before your wedding day. This time-line allows two weeks for photo editing and three weeks for you to order your guest book.

If you order your guest book through me, it usually arrives to you within 10 business days. Be sure to check production and ship times from your guest book vendor to ensure we give ample time for you to get the guest book of your dreams!

And, if you're scheduling your shoot just because and have no specific plans for your engagement photos - good news: we can schedule whenever you are ready! It's never too early to take your engagement pictures, so choose the time that is right for you. Is it your preferred season? Do you feel your best? If you're ready, I'm ready!

### PICKING A LOCATION

Choose a location that best describes you as a couple. Do you have a favorite cafe you go to? Do you always return to that place on the beach where you kissed for the first time? I recommend taking your engagement photos at a place you always want to remember.

The best photos are from shoots where the couples are actively involved in scouting the locations. I can take pictures ANYWHERE - so choose where you want to be photographed and we'll make it happen!

You'll never go wrong by picking your favorite park or beach!





# WHAT TO WEAR



The most important thing about what you wear is to pick something you will look and feel comfortable in. This shoot should be FUN - and fidgeting with clothes you've never worn before (or will never wear again!) will take away the enjoyment of your special session.

I always recommend that couples choose an elevated version of their normal look. For many of my couples, these are the first formal photos they will have taken together. Pull out the Sunday Best and use the opportunity to wear those pieces in your closet that you love but only pull out for really, really special days!

Avoid patterns or looks that take the focus away from you in the photos. You and partner should be the focal point of these photos.

I can normally accommodate one outfit change during your shoot. If you want more versatility, pack some accessories that you can change out easily for a few additional looks without pausing for a full wardrobe change.



## DO: EMBRACE LAYERS

Layers serve multiple purposes! They give you versatility in your looks and can add natural props to your shoot.



## DO: ADD TEXTURE

Textures are a great way to add dimension to your photos while avoiding busy and distracting patterns.



## DO: COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER

Pick looks that compliment each other. Choose colors that work well together and look great on both of you!



## DO: BRING PROPS (+PUPS!)

We can incorporate props into your photos. A save the date banner, matching bikes, coffee mugs - or a dog!

I love incorporating props into engagement shoots. Be creative and be sure to bring props that show who you are as a couple.



## DO: THINK TIMELESS

These are photos that you will keep for years, so it's best to wear timeless outfits and skip apparel that is too trendy.

If you want to incorporate trends, do it in small ways like wearing a classic sweater with a trendy piece of jewelry!



## DO: HAVE FUN!

Enjoy yourself! Your engagement shoot should be a BLAST! Don't forget to relax, smile, and have some fun with your photos.

It's important that you're comfortable during your shoot. Your photos will be exceptionally better if you have FUN!

## ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SHOOT

**BE READY.** There is no rush to take your engagement photos. Wait until you are ready! Wait for your favorite season to roll around, wait for the stress of your busy work season to slow, wait until you feel your best! Do not feel rushed to take your engagement photos - your discomfort will show.

**Wear or pack comfortable shoes.** Make sure the shoes you wear for your engagement shoot are comfortable - or, at least bring a pair of comfortable shoes to change in to!

**Guys - we can see your socks!** Men, make sure you wear nice socks. They will appear in a photo or two and we will be able to tell if they're your mismatched old gym socks.

**Manicures + Pedicures.** If it is in your budget, I recommend a manicure and pedicure before your photo shoot. I'll take some close up shots of your ring, and you don't want to be distracted by dry nail beds.

**Pack the props, but leave the purse.** Ladies, if it is possible, I recommend only bringing the necessities! We'll move from spot to spot quickly and it is hard to keep an eye on valuables while shooting.

**Hair + Makeup Trial.** You may be tempted to combine your hair and makeup trial with your engagement photo sessions. It's a great way to see how your makeup will photograph on your big day or if you'll be comfortable with your hair. Remember though, a trial is intended to give you an idea of what you do and don't like. If you don't like your trial hair or makeup, you'll be forced to be photographed in a hairstyle you hate or makeup that you don't think looks good on you. Similarly, if you pick a formal, elegant updo the style may compliment your favorite pair of jeans. It is up to you - but do consider the pros and cons and how much experience you have with your hair stylist or makeup artist.

**Practice your poses.** If you want to try a specific lift or dip during your shoot then practice, practice! Do you think the lift in *The Notebook* was the first time Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams tried it? I recommend getting comfortable with the lift or dip so it reads as natural in your photos.

**Kiss. A lot.** During your shoot, I'll ask you to kiss a few times. Don't be afraid of PDA! I will also ask you to kiss differently than you normally do. It may feel odd, but trust me, it will look great in photos!

**Rest and relax!** Get a good night's sleep the night before your shoot so you wake up fresh and rested!

