

The best way to preserve a bridal bouquet is to arrange professional preservation before the wedding and deliver the flowers as soon afterward as possible. A specialist can dry and display the blooms, while silica gel is a practical option for preserving them at home.

Choose a preservation method

Professional preservation is a good choice if you want to keep the shape of the flowers and have them arranged in a frame or display case. Ask the specialist which flowers they can preserve, how they dry them and how soon they need the bouquet. The finished arrangement may look different from the fresh bouquet because flowers often change color and shape as they dry.

Silica gel is a useful home method for individual blooms. It draws moisture from flowers while helping many of them retain their shape. You will need an airtight container, enough silica gel to cover the flowers and a little patience.

Air drying is simpler and requires fewer supplies, but flowers can shrink, darken or become brittle. Pressing works well for a flat display rather than a bouquet with its original shape.

Care for the bouquet after the wedding

Fresh flowers begin to change as soon as they are cut, so try to start preservation promptly. Until then, keep the bouquet out of direct sun and away from heat. Place the stems in clean water if the bouquet can sit upright without damaging the arrangement.

Handle the flowers gently and remove any damaged petals only if they come away easily. If a preservation specialist has given you storage or delivery instructions, follow those first. Take a clear photo of the bouquet before dismantling it so you have a reference for its original arrangement.

Dry flowers at home with silica gel

Choose blooms that are still in good condition. Some delicate petals may be difficult to handle, so set aside a few extra flowers if you have them.

- Remove the flowers from the bouquet and trim their stems to fit your container.
- Pour a layer of silica gel into an airtight container and place the blooms on top, leaving space between them.
- Slowly spoon more gel around and over each flower, supporting the petals without crushing them.
- Seal the container and follow the drying time on the silica gel package.
- Lift the flowers out carefully and use a soft brush to remove the remaining granules.

Silica gel is not the same as the small packets sometimes found in packaging. Use a product intended for drying flowers and follow its safety instructions.

Protect the finished flowers

Once dry, flowers are fragile and can fade over time. Keep them indoors, away from direct sunlight and moisture. A closed frame or display case can help protect them from dust and accidental handling.

If you want flowers set in resin, they must be thoroughly dried first. A preservation specialist can advise on which blooms are suitable and how their colors may change.

A preserved bouquet will not look exactly as it did on the wedding day, and that is all right. Choose a method that gives you a keepsake you will enjoy seeing and can comfortably care for.

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