

Questions to Ask Floral Designers

- Can you see photographs or live examples of past work? (Real bouquets and arrangements will give you a better idea than photos—especially photos that aren't of the florist's actual work but show things the florist says he or she *can* do.)
- Does the florist's style—and the overall look of the shop/studio—match yours? (This is common sense; you should get a good gut feeling.)
- Does the florist seem knowledgeable, offering suggestions for less expensive alternatives, the best flowers for the season in which your wedding will be held, and so on?
- Has the florist done weddings at your ceremony and/or reception sites before? (He or she may have pictures of arrangements done at your site, and he or she will be knowledgeable about what sizes, shapes, and colors work in the space.)
- If not, will she/he stop by prior to the wedding to check out the space?
- Will the florist simply drop flowers off for your wedding, or will he or she spend time at the sites, setting up and making sure everything is in order? (You'll pay for a full-service florist, but you get what you pay for.)
- How big is the shop (that is, number of staff), and who will ultimately be working on your wedding? (Make sure it's the floral designer with whom you discuss your vision.)
- How many weddings will the florist be doing on the same day or weekend as yours?
- Does the florist offer any rental items—vases, potted plants, arches, trellises, candelabras, urns? Or must you get these things from a rental company?
- Does the florist preserve bouquets? (If this is important to you, find out now if he or she will be able to do so after the wedding, or if you can be referred to someone who can. You may have to make an appointment *before* the wedding to ensure that your bouquet can be preserved directly afterward.)