

Beginner's Guide to Tuxedos

And Tuxedo Renting

Compliments of Modern Tux

Picking Your Tuxedo

Here's a couple of general things about tuxedos that most first time wearers don't realize:

A tuxedo coat and pants are not to be worn baggy. A properly fitting tuxedo will feel somewhat "tight," especially if you are used to wearing baggy sweatshirts and pants.

Formalwear is supposed to look crisp and sharp which means formalwear is quite form fitting. In a properly fitting tuxedo coat you will not be able to easily raise your arms. But are you going to be raising your arms a lot at a formal event? Probably not!

Formal shoes are much stiffer than tennis shoes. Don't expect them to be as comfortable!

When picking the style of tuxedo you should first ask yourself , what kind of person are you? Are you more trendy in that you wear pretty up- to-date clothing styles, have a modern hair cut, or do you prefer to wear more conservative clothes and like more conservative styles?

Twenty or thirty years from now do you want to look at pictures and have a good laugh at the crazy tuxedo style you worn (which can be quite fun) or do you want to have a more timeless look?

The choices in tuxedo styles are these: Go trendy, go traditional, or somewhere in between. It all depends on what type of person you are and what kind of pictures you want! Only you can answer that.

The main choice that drives the whole look is the coat style. The coat is pretty much is the focal point. There are four basic types of coat lapels; notch, peak, shawl and any other type not falling into those three categories.

If you are going trendy; that means a four or five or even six button coat that doesn't show much of the vest when buttoned. The vest would be a wild pattern with a wild color. No black tie, but a button cover or nothing. Pants would be quite baggy and the shoes might be a black and white capped toe shoe.

If you are going traditional that would mean a notch or peak lapel tuxedo coat with a subdued colored vest (or even more traditional white cummerbund). Traditional black bow tie and side stripe pants.

You can always do something in between. For example, a notch or peak lapel tuxedo coat with a patterned, brighter colored vest would be a fairly traditional look with a trendy flair. For a more trendy look, but not totally, a high buttoned coat with a subdued vest and traditional pants would do.

Once you figure out where you want to be on the trend scale, the rest comes fairly easily. You just have to decide the specific colors of the accessories, for example. Details like matching handkerchiefs can really add a touch of class, too.

Putting on Your Tuxedo

Give yourself a good 20-30 minutes to get yourself dressed properly especially if you are a first time wearer. There are several things that take some time to figure out or adjust. If you are rushed, you won't be able to think right!

Here's our suggested order of putting on a tuxedo and the order in which we will discuss; 1) Underwear and socks; 2) Shirt; 3) Pants; 4) Studs; 5) Cufflinks; 6) Bowtie or Tie; 7) Shoes; 8) Vest or cummerbund; 9) Coat. If you are renting your tuxedo, you may not have cufflinks.

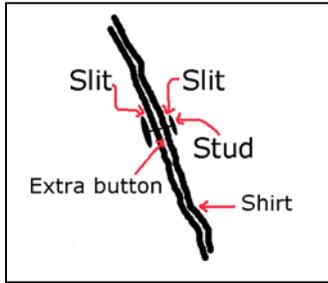
When it comes to underwear and socks just make sure they are comfortable. Formal "hose" as we say, is basically always black, except if you are wearing a white tuxedo in which case it is permissible to wear white socks. Formal hose is much thinner than regular cotton socks.

Next put your shirt on. Just let it hang loose and don't button anything.

Put your pants on. You'll likely have an adjustable waist. The metal clip will move back and forth to open and clamp. Adjust the waist to wear it is comfortable (you should wear it a little more snug than you wear usual pants) and close the metal clips to clamp down.

Tuxedo pants (or more formally — "trousers") are not baggy. They are not to be worn low. Tuxedo trousers are to be worn at the navel — belly button. Most pants are adjustable at the waist, which means you do not need a belt. Those without a belt are usually worn with suspenders. The bottom of the pants should be a quarter to a half inch above the floor. The pants will

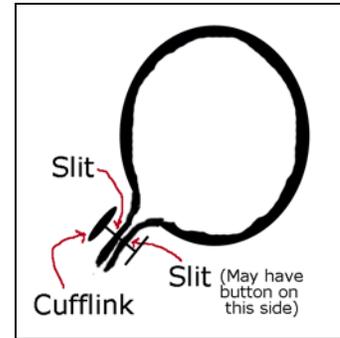
probably seem long, but that is the proper way to wear tuxedo pants.



Now back to the shirt. Tuxedo shirts are mysterious to those that have never worn them. There may be plastic buttons on your shirt, but you don't use them if you have studs! They are a backup system in case you have forgotten or have lost your studs. If you look at the stud from the side, it looks kind of like an "I" only the top of the stud has a smaller diameter than the fatter bottom.

The bottom of the stud (the larger diameter side) slips into the slit in the shirt next to where the plastic button is sewn. If there is no plastic button, it is the bigger slit in the shirt which would be closest to the body. Since you are not using the plastic button, the stud, once in place, becomes the button! So the top (smaller diameter) part of the stud is now actually the button — just take the shirt and "button it" over the top of the stud.

Cufflinks are a challenge if you are wearing them. You'll probably need help putting them on. There are two slits in the cuff of the shirt (the area above the hands). You don't button the shirt cuffs like regular shirts; the slits are NOT lined up overlapping each other to make a smooth oval around the wrist.



Instead, line up the slits so that the cuff looks like a teardrop when looking into the cuff. There may be extra plastic buttons on the cuff; these would be on the outside of the shirt but facing inward toward the wrist. Make sure the cufflink is lined up in a straight line and then stick the cufflink through both slits with the finished nice side of the cufflink facing outward from the wrist. Once through the slits, adjust the cufflink so that it no longer is in a line but more like a T. That will "anchor" the cufflink to the shirt.

Now put on your bowtie (or tie). You'll probably need help with this. With the bowtie facing forward, put the strap around your neck and try to attach the hook into the loop. You'll probably have to do this several times adjusting the length of the strap several times until you get it right. If you are wearing a wing tip shirt, the flaps are in front of the strap and the bowtie is in front of the flaps.

If you are wearing a vest, just put it on BUT make sure you don't have it on so tight that it buckles/creases. Vests are worn pretty loosely.

If you are wearing a cummerbund, the creases face UP. Or as they say, they can "catch crumbs."

And finally, the coat. DON'T put the coat on starting with your hand above your head! This is a surefire way to get tangled up in the coat and look kind of dumb when doing it!

Start LOW, with the hand of the arm you are first putting into the coat below your waist. Think LOW. Slip your hand into the sleeve almost all the way in, and then, turning your body to the other side, slip your other hand into the other sleeve almost all the way in.

Then with the coat still low, move both arms toward your chest (maybe with a wiggle of sorts) and the coat will rise and your arms will then be into the sleeves completely. Then feel around your neck to make sure the coat is laying properly. You might also have to pull down your shirt sleeves out of the coat sleeves a little.

You now know how to get dressed in a tuxedo and are ready for action.

When , Where, What?

You go and pick out your tuxedo style and get measured as soon as you can. For weddings, three to six months before the wedding is good. For proms, one to eight weeks before is acceptable, except that the closer it gets to the prom, the more likely the style you may want gets fully rented for that weekend.

Where you go can have an impact your look and wallet! Some stores will rent very old tuxedos time and time again, meaning their tuxedos can look worn and frayed. And they may charge every bit as much to rent as a new or newer tuxedo elsewhere. Pick a reputable place.

You'll need to be measured. If you are out of town from where you will be picking up the tuxedo, you can usually go to a local tuxedo specialist and get measured and can then send in the measurements to the place you are actually renting it from.

You can attempt to measure yourself, but expect to have some inconveniences when you pick up your tuxedo. If measurements are wrong, you'll either have to wear it as it fits, or possibly come back to the tuxedo place to get replacement garments.

You'll come in to the tuxedo specialist you are renting from a couple of days or so before you wear it to try it on. Usually, there are some minor adjustments to be made like a sleeve or hem or maybe different size shoes. If you go to a place that is set up to service you right then, you will likely just have to wait a few minutes for the adjustments and then be on your way with your tuxedo. You may have to come back the next day or in a few hours if the tuxedo specialist is not staffed properly to do adjustments while you are there.

Before the event you are wearing your tuxedo, be sure to give yourself enough time to get dressed as discussed earlier.

After the event, you'll have to return the tuxedo. If you are part of a wedding, you can probably give the tuxedo to someone who can return all the tuxedos at once rather than each in the party individually returning them. If you are returning the tux yourself, be sure to get it back within the time frame you agreed to — usually two days at most. Otherwise, you could be hit with late fees as the tuxedo you rented may be booked for someone else that week.

modern tux

123 S. Urania Ave. Greensburg, PA 15601

724.836.6626 www.moderntux.com

Open 7 Days A Week

M,W,Th 11-8:30; T,F 11-5; Sat 10-5; Sun 12-4