

Freeze-Drying Wedding Bouquets

The following information is designed to help you know what is necessary if you are interested in freeze-drying your wedding bouquet, corsages, boutonnieres, cake flowers, flowers from other occasions, etc. We hope this will help answer a lot of your questions:

(1) Try to refrigerate flowers as soon as possible after ceremonies. Enjoy your bouquet for it is your day, but be careful not to leave it out too long. If your refrigerator freezes everyday items such as lettuce easily, DO NOT REFRIGERATE. Just try to keep it in the coolest area possible. You may want to purchase a very inexpensive Styrofoam cooler and fill with ice approximately 3-4 inches deep. Lay a couple of trash bags over the top of the ice to prevent freezing of flowers, place flowers on top of bags, and then cover and store cooler in a very cool area. NEVER PUT YOUR FLOWERS IN THE FREEZER.

(2) If bouquet is in a bouquet holder, saturate the oasis with fresh water, let drain for a few minutes, and then refrigerate. If bouquet has long stems such as a nosegay, (sometimes wrapped with ribbon), do the following: Trim stems approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch under running water and place in a pre-filled vase of fresh water. Use regular tap water if flowers are firm. If flowers are somewhat floppy, place flowers in warm water and then refrigerate immediately. A bowl or something like a large empty coffee can, etc. can be used to elevate the flowers off the shelf which sometimes can flatten some of your outer flowers resulting in "flat flowers" when bouquets are in holders.

(3) You may choose to preserve your whole bouquet or you may decide to do a miniature version of your bouquet. Some choose to use a very few flowers from the bouquet, just for a small keepsake. The choice is yours. You may consider removing a few roses, for example, and make small keepsakes for the parents as a special thank you gift for your wedding. You may choose to give them as gifts for Mother's Day, Christmas, etc. Prices range from \$35.00 and up.

(4) You do not have to make a decision as to what you would like to do with your flowers by your wedding day. We require a non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 when dropping off the bouquet and other flowers, and the balance will be due upon completion of your keepsake. We will first take a photograph of the flowers and start the drying process. You can call and make an appointment later to come by and pick out the perfect keepsake to remember your wedding day. You may want to bring items such as invitations, pictures, napkins, pearls, etc. to possibly incorporate into your keepsake. We request that you pick up your finished design within two weeks of our notifying you that your order is ready. Date of completion varies due to the actual drying process and final decision date of keepsakes selected. An approximate day of completion can be projected at that point.

For your convenience, we do accept all major credit cards.

Flowers when properly cared for as explained above can keep nicely for several days, but the sooner you let us know of the wedding date and the date of your drop-off of the flowers, we can plan to be here to receive them.

Please call us at: 336-771-1490 with any questions or to make an appointment.