

When it comes to formal wear, the key word is choice, says Steve Petix, Clothiers. Vests, ties, cummerbunds, pocket squares and even suspenders come bold and brilliant patterns like those from the Ocean Mist collection by Mel Howard.



BILL HANSEN

Spice up groom's wear

By Mike Dele
special writer

GROOMS CHOOSING an ensemble for their wedding day don't have to be overwhelmed by choices. The decision generally falls into place after deciding when (what season, what time of day) and where (formal or informal) the wedding will take place.

How ties, ascots and other neckwear purvey certain looks. Cuff links, studs, pocket squares, cummerbunds and suspenders add spice and personality to your ensemble. Why? Because they reflect the current clothing trends and fads. Embroidery and tapestry, for example, add contrast and punch to basic black tuxedos and white formal shirts.

Floral ties and cummerbunds in bright blue and fuchsia, light beige and purple or iridescent starbursts are popular looks this season with solid formal wear, says Donna Dunphy, office manager at Randazzo Tuxedo, Livonia.

"The florals are a formal look that men can match to the dresses in the wedding party," Dunphy said. "Some grooms add a solid pocket square for even more color."

Besides florals, grooms at Randazzo's and at Steve Petix Clothiers in Birmingham, Livonia and Plymouth like the new houndstooth vest to wear with a traditional black tuxedo. In fact, vests in various patterns are making a big comeback.

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