



Wedding Flower Colours & Preservation

An honest, colour-by-colour guide to how
your wedding flowers will look once preserved



You spent time choosing your colours. This guide walks you through what actually happens to each colour during preservation, what to expect over time, and how to plan your florals for the keepsake you'll love.

How Each Colour Behaves

The reality of every colour family, told honestly.

Before we start, the one thing that matters most: UV light is the biggest factor in how well your colours hold over time. That's why I use UV-protective, anti-reflective glass on every piece — and why where you hang your keepsake matters almost as much as how it's preserved.



Whites & Creams

Mostly hold, with some warming

Most whites — white roses especially — warm to a soft ivory or cream. Many brides love it; it gives a beautiful aged, vintage quality. **White dahlias are an exception** that keep their white truer than roses. Some preservers paint or colour-fix at the end of preservation to keep whites brilliant white — I don't do that unless specifically requested. I prefer the honest, naturally-aged look.



Blush & Soft Pinks

The hardest of the colour family

Surprising to many, but blush is the most challenging colour to preserve. Pinks come from anthocyanin pigment, and blush tones have very little of it — less pigment means less to hold. **Pale pink roses** often dry significantly lighter, sometimes drifting close to cream. **Pale pink lisianthus** is a lovely exception that holds better. Over years, all pinks settle to a dusty pink or warm cream.



Hot Pinks & Fuchsias

Strong performers

This is where pinks come into their own. Hot pinks and fuchsias have far more pigment to hold onto, so they stay vibrant through preservation. They'll soften gently over years into a warmer rose tone, but it's a subtle change. UV glass slows it further. Brides who choose hot pinks usually love how the colour ages.

How Each Colour Behaves

Continued — reds through to greens.



Reds & Burgundies

Beautiful, but the least predictable

Reds can lighten or deepen, and it's hard to know which way they'll go. Some deep maroon roses go so dark they sit close to black — striking and elegant, but worth being prepared for. Burgundy tones generally hold beautifully. **If red is dominant in your bouquet — especially against white** — the contrast can become quite dramatic. If you'd prefer a softer feel, ask your florist for some intermediate tones to bridge the contrast.



Yellows & Oranges

Stable in colour, but lose their pop

Yellows stay yellow and oranges stay orange — actually some of the most colour-stable flowers I work with. What changes is the vibrancy. A bright sunny yellow pales in intensity even though it stays distinctly yellow. Oranges deepen slightly. Against the soft antique tones of preserved blooms around them, the pop is quieter than fresh. **Yellow dahlias and dahlia centres** hold their colour brilliantly.



Purples & Lavenders

A favourite to work with

Purples are one of my favourite colours to preserve. Deep purples and violets hold beautifully, plum tones stay rich, and softer lavenders settle into a lovely dusty muted purple with its own charm. **Purple paired with green** is one of the strongest pairings in a finished frame — both colours hold their own and the contrast looks stunning.

How Each Colour Behaves

Continued — blues and greenery.



Blues

Good results, with a few quirks

True blue flowers are rare but generally preserve well — the brighter and more saturated, the longer they'll hold their character. **Delphiniums** have a lovely quirk: even white delphiniums often dry to a soft shade of light blue. **Hydrangeas** are excellent, especially dusty and antique blue tones. **Cornflowers** are fragile and don't preserve well in 3D — if they're in your bouquet I'll press them instead (see next page).



Greens & Foliage

Essential — but not all created equal

Foliage is one of the most important elements in a finished piece. **Eucalyptus** is my favourite — most reliable green, air-dried not silica. I'll sometimes use glycerin treatment to keep it pliable, which can shift the colour slightly to grey-green. **Ferns and queen anne's lace** hold their green in silica but gradually settle to olive over years — worth keeping for texture and drama. **Trailing vines and twisted stems** add wonderful movement. **Ruscus** is the one I don't bother with — takes forever to dry and goes brown.

A note on bouquet-style frames

If you've chosen the bouquet-style frame (where I keep the stems intact and the piece looks like the bouquet itself, rather than the flat design-style where stems are removed and we look down onto the flowers), **greenery is essential**. It gives the piece structure and depth. Across both styles, greenery is also what helps with layering so the flowers don't sit flat in 2D — it creates the dimension that makes a 3D preserved piece actually look 3D.

Not Every Flower Suits Silica

Choosing the right method for each bloom — and why it matters.

Silica gel is my main method, and it's what gives Cherished Blooms pieces their distinctive 3D, lifelike look. But forcing every bloom through silica when there's a better way for that flower would do you a disservice. Part of my job is choosing the right method for each flower in your bouquet.

1 Flowers I'll press instead of silica-dry

Cornflowers, cosmos, sweet peas and small daisies. These are delicate, fine-petalled flowers that don't hold up well to 3D preservation — they crush, tear, or lose their character. Pressed and incorporated into the finished piece, they keep their colour and shape beautifully and add a lovely contrast in texture against the 3D blooms.

2 Flowers I'll air dry

Eucalyptus, baby's breath and statice. These all dry naturally without needing silica and hold their shape and colour beautifully through air drying. **White statice is worth a special mention — it actually stays white through air drying**, which is unusual and makes it a really useful flower if a true white is something you want in your finished piece.

3 Everything else into the silica sand

Roses, dahlias, hydrangeas, ranunculus, peonies, lisianthus, the wider range of foliage and most florals you'd find in a typical wedding bouquet — they all do their best work in 3D silica preservation.

Why this matters for your keepsake

Using the right method for each flower means your finished piece reflects your bouquet at its best — each bloom captured the way it preserves most beautifully. It's a bit more work, but it's why your keepsake actually looks like the flowers you carried.

Planning With Preservation in Mind

Practical tips if you're still designing your florals.

None of these are rules — your bouquet should be exactly what you want for your wedding day, first and foremost. But if you're between options and preservation matters to you, these tips might help.

- **Choose a mix.** A bouquet with several different colours and textures gives you a far more interesting preserved piece than a single-colour bouquet. Variety is gold.
- **Lean into deeper tones if you want longevity.** Burgundies, hot pinks, deep purples, white dahlias and rich greens all hold their colour well. Treat any blush or pale pink tones as a soft accent rather than the main story.
- **Don't skip the greenery.** It preserves best of anything, and it makes the finished piece feel full and lush.
- **Mention preservation to your florist.** It won't change the look of your bouquet on the day, but it opens up a conversation about textures, fillers, and design choices that work beautifully in a frame.
- **Send extras where possible.** Bridesmaids' bouquets, buttonholes, table flowers — the more I have to work with, the more options we have for the finished piece.

Already chosen your flowers? Don't stress.

Whatever colours you've chosen, I'll work with them honestly. When you book in with me, we'll have a chat about your bouquet and your colour choices, and I'll set expectations upfront on anything that might behave differently in preservation. No surprises later.

And while we're on the subject: I genuinely love working with colourful bouquets. They make the most dynamic, interesting finished pieces — colour against colour, texture against texture. Don't feel like you need to play it safe with your palette to get a beautiful preserved keepsake. A bold, colourful bouquet is a joy to work with, and the result is almost always stunning.

A Note for the Florists Reading This

A few useful bits if a bride mentions she's preserving her bouquet.

Most florists don't get a lot of feedback on what happens to their work after the wedding. If you've got a bride who's planning to preserve her bouquet, here's a quick summary of what's actually useful to know from a preservation perspective.

1 Colour, in brief

The basics from this guide apply across the board, regardless of preservation method. Pale pinks lose pigment. Reds can be unpredictable. Yellows stay yellow but lose vibrancy. Purples and greens are reliable. White roses warm to ivory; white dahlias hold their white. Useful context if a bride asks what flowers might suit preservation best.

2 Design choices that translate beautifully

Variety is gold. A mix of feature blooms, mid-size flowers, buds, textural elements like queen anne's lace, trailing vines, twisted stems, and generous foliage all give the finished piece depth. The bouquets that translate worst are the ones tightly packed with a single bloom type and minimal greenery — they end up looking flat in a frame.

3 Freshness is everything

The single biggest factor in how well a bouquet preserves is how fresh it is when it reaches me. Bouquets kept in water and out of the sun give the best starting point. The less handling between the ceremony and getting to my studio, the better the result.

If you've got a bride asking about preservation

Feel free to point her my way — I'm always happy to chat with brides early in their planning so we can think about the bouquet design together, both for the day and for the keepsake. And if you're a Gold Coast or Brisbane florist who'd like to chat about working together more closely on shared clients, I'd genuinely love to hear from you.

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into something you can keep.

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