



Ordering Chair Covers

Every bride wants her reception decorations to be special. Almost all spend the majority of time decorating the walls and ceilings of the reception hall and choose linens for the tables. Often little, if any, thought is given to the chairs. Many times a venue's chairs are often some nondescript color that matches the carpet and little else. Many brides resign themselves to "living with" the ugly or clashing colors of the chairs provided.

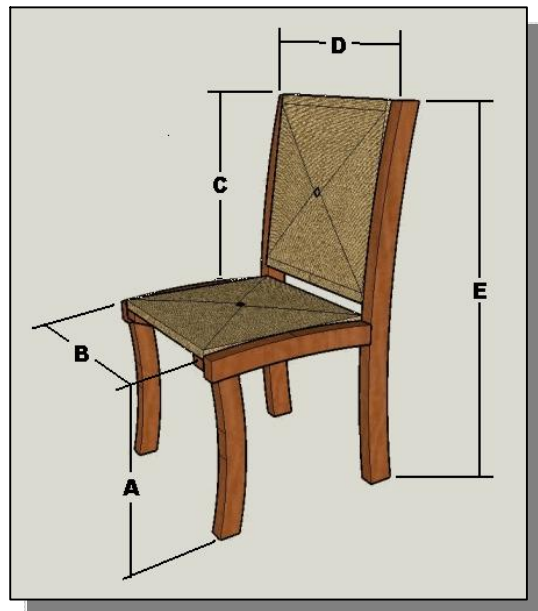
Chair covers and sashes can add drama and flair and come in a rainbow of colors. They also help to tie your event's color scheme together. The cost of the rental is very reasonable. For far less than \$5.00 per chair you can make sure this detail of decorating isn't overlooked.

But before you finalize any rentals, you have to make sure you have the correct measurements for the chairs used at the venue. While most venues say that the chairs they use are "standard size," this often refers to the size of the seat and not the back of the chair. For example, you could rent the cover designed for chairs with backs 30 inches high only to find that the chairs in the venue have 39 inch backs. You can see how important it is that you get the complete measurements of the chair you are attempting to cover.

In this drawing each of the critical measurements are shown:

- A – Seat to Floor
- B – Seat Width
- C – Back Height from Seat
- D – Back Width
- E – Back Total Height

Giving these dimensions to your chair cover rental company will help insure that the chair covers will actually fit the chair properly.



The second piece of information that you should give to the rental company is the type of chair you are attempting to fit. The drawings below illustrate some of the main chair types.



Understand that there are many variations on the basic design of a chair. The examples illustrate the four main categories. This description along with the measurements will help the rental company provide properly fitting chair covers.

You should always book chair cover rentals well in advance of the date that you need them. For weddings held during the summer, you should book the chair covers at least three to four months in advance. Winter weddings will not require the same lead time but, overall, the earlier you can book your chair cover rental the better. You won't need to have a final count for the covers when placing the order but there will be a deadline for the final count. Be sure to ask the rental company what their policy is regarding when the final count is due.

Also ask about the rental company's policy with respect to stains or accidental damage to the covers. Chair cover rental companies do allow for these possibilities and will not charge an extra fee for spills of wine or other drinks or stains from food. However, if the chair cover is permanently stained, with a permanent marker for example, the cover is ruined. You will be liable for the replacement cost, but only for the covers that are damaged in this way. Some companies offer a "damage waiver" clause in the contract as long as you pay a damage waiver fee at the time of rental.

You can fit the chair covers and sashes yourself – assuming you can find the time in your schedule. Many times, brides take too much onto themselves in order to save money. The day before is not a good time to ask the rental company to install the covers for you. Not that installing covers is a difficult or time consuming task but it is just one more thing you have to schedule into your day and you probably have better things to do with your time. Inquire with the rental company to see if they provide this service. The rental staff will deliver the covers, install them just before the reception and remove them after the event is over. If you do decide to install the covers yourself, ask the rental company for a quick lesson – there are tricks to every trade – and they can show you faster than you can figure it out for yourself.