

Stash it or Trash it!

Trash the Dress, you say? by S Brungardt
<http://www.ehow.com/members/sbrungardt.html>

It's exactly what it sounds like -- following the blessed event, the bride straps on that gorgeous dress once again for a final farewell photo to the gown she spent a fortune to wear for one day only. Only instead of posing in some predictably idyllic setting, the picture is shot in a scroungy back alley or a mossy lake.

These so-called "Trash the Dress" photos have become all the rage with brides who want to add something unconventional to their wedding albums. And unconventional they are -- particularly the photo at right in which a bride has set her wedding gown aflame, a la Joan of Arc. This shot was taken by a photographer named John Michael Cooper, who coined the phrase Trash the Dress. If you want to see more of his edgy, arty wedding photography, check out his website, which [chronicles his collection of Trash the Dress wedding photos.](#) Pretty cool, huh?

Things You'll Need if you decide to Trash it!

- Wedding dress
- A Really Cool Photographer
- Sense of adventure

Step One

Commit to the trashing. You've committed to the groom. That was the easy part. Now you must commit to trashing the dress. While this may be an easy decision for some, it will be difficult for others, and it's not for everyone. Depending on your photography session photos and poses, your dress will likely get dirty, snagged or torn.

Step Two

Know that it's not about destroying the dress. Trash the Dress is a non-traditional and artistic way to capture additional memories of the dress you love so much. Chances are, you won't be wearing it again, and neither will your daughter.

Step Three

Select a photographer. Preferably, you will want a wedding photographer who has conducted a Trash the Dress session or is familiar with the concept. Otherwise, set up consultations with a few wedding photographers in your area to discuss the idea.

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Step Four

Choose a location. Be creative and imaginative, exploring intriguing settings in your city or town. You probably pass great venues every day without even realizing it. Consider subway stations, abandoned warehouses, salvage yards, farms, fields or lakes.

Step Five

Trash the dress. (Again, you don't have to totally trash the dress here.) Just relax and enjoy yourself during the photo session. Again, this is your chance to preserve your wedding dress in a distinctive way. Use your imagination and don't be afraid of a little dirt or a minor snag.

Step Six

Clean it up. After your session, you can still have the dress cleaned and preserved for safe-keeping. Who knows? Maybe you'll want another session in a few years. Or, one altruistic alternative is donating your dress to a charitable cause.

Go ahead; you know you want to. Trash it. Get it dirty. Get it wet. Roll around in the mud. Drench it in the ocean. Totally trash it.

Why? ... Why not? You've made a commitment to your husband. He's your one and only true love, right? Then you'll never need the dress again. And no, your daughter won't wear it in 20-30 years. So you have two choices:

- 1) Suffocate it in plastic and throw it in a closet*
- 2) Show your husband how committed you are by trashing the dress, and get some great fun pictures while you do it!"*

[Check us out at Trash the Dress](#) and look around for some awe-inspiring photos.

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/popup?id=3283476>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSWcLW9sQ84>