



## BRIDAL EDITION

# Paper takes the cake at weddings

From flowers to toppers, it makes a big splash.

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Paper may be the traditional gift for a first wedding anniversary, but many couples have started incorporating it into their wedding day.

This year, brides and grooms are opting for paper crafts, such as flowers and cake toppers, instead of their more traditional counterparts.

Paper flowers, for example, last longer than live flowers, and they can be shaped into beautiful artistic designs.

Aimee Empey, owner of Paper, Gowns & Glory in Charlestown, Mass., ([papergownsandglory.com](http://papergownsandglory.com)) says, "Our paper floral arrangements are made to be a keepsake. They will never wilt and may be passed down to the next bride in the family. They're timeless."

Additionally, you can reuse them in your home or office as a reminder of your special day. They can also be taken apart and rearranged. They cost about \$150 and up, depending on the complexity of the arrangement.

Paper cake toppers are the buzz this wedding season, too, with custom styles made of acid-free paper. It's a charming conversation piece that can be used on top of your wedding cake or as a table decoration.

"Weddings can be a huge generator of waste, from the paper invitations to the gift wrap," says Victoria Bauer, wedding planner and owner of A Bride's Ally ([abridesally.com](http://abridesally.com)) in St. Louis. But, she adds, you can be environmentally friendly in other parts of your wedding and still enjoy these new paper trends.

Bauer says, "If you choose paper flowers, consider paying it forward by donating them to a retirement home or community center for others to enjoy."

We couldn't resist this paper craft for an outdoor wedding. It's an airy and whimsical doily outdoor lantern. Here's a do-it-yourself instruction guide.

### What you'll need

- Paper lantern (at most craft stores)
- Paper doilies (at most craft stores)
- Scissors
- Double-sided tape
- String to hang

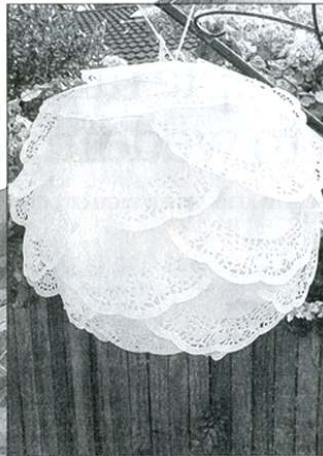
### Instructions

1. Cut a bunch of doilies in half.
2. For the top few doilies, cut out a semi-circle so they will fit around the opening at the top of the lantern.
3. Turn over a doily half and place double-sided tape on the wrong side. Stick to the top of the lantern. Repeat with two or three more doily halves until the top opening is circled. You might need to overlap a few of the doilies slightly to fit; try to get it as even as possible.
4. Place double-sided tape on the wrong sides of more halved doilies. Stick underneath the top doilies in the middle of the gaps, so they overlap like fish scales.
5. Continue all the way around and down to the bottom. For the final layer, you might need to cut a doily into quarters to fill the leftover space.

Source: [Ruffledblog.com](http://Ruffledblog.com)



Paper flowers can be made to decorate the head table at your wedding reception. Prices start at \$150 at [papergownsandglory.com](http://papergownsandglory.com).



Create a white doily outdoor lantern. See above for instructions.

Paper wedding cake toppers are crafted with acid-free paper, a variety of cutting tools and archival quality glue. Prices start at \$150 each at [concarta.blogspot.com](http://concarta.blogspot.com).