

Floral Preservation

Denise Hanson, Event Designs – pg. X

After all the time and effort invested in selecting the perfect flowers for your wedding day, why settle for only a few hours of enjoyment? Preserve the natural beauty of your flowers for years and years to come. With floral preservation, your flowers, along with any mementos, can be preserved and encased, allowing you to enjoy them for many years to come.

What is Floral Freeze Drying?

The basic principle of floral freeze-drying is the removal of water from frozen botanicals as water vapor, and collection of this water vapor as ice in a condenser. With the botanicals solidly frozen during the process, and under a deep vacuum, shrinkage is eliminated or minimized, and near perfect preservation will result. The process requires the flowers to be frozen and then gradually the temperature is raised to stimulate sublimation (ice crystals changing directly to water vapor). Over a period of days all the water from the botanicals will sublime and go into a condensation chamber. The water vapor turns back into ice in this very cold (-40° F or lower) condensation chamber. Defrosting the condensation chamber removes moisture from the freeze drying system. When ice quits forming in the condenser the load is dry. Often the only requirement for long-term storage of freeze-dried materials is the prevention of moisture re-entering the product.

The Process:

Floral freeze-drying is accomplished by a process called sublimation. Your flowers are placed in a computer-monitored machine that freezes and extracts almost all moisture from the flower by way of a vacuum, which helps to retain the brilliant color and shape of each flower. This is a carefully monitored process, which takes 14 to 16 days in the machine plus additional preparation time with pre and post-treatments to produce a properly freeze-dried flower for keepsake quality. Please keep in mind the fresher the flowers are when received, the better the results will be.

