

Rae Allen Photography

ENGAGEMENT GUIDE



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Let's Face it...

Picking things out other than jeans and a t-shirt can be intimidating. Now amplify that intimidation when you know you are going to be professionally photographed. Even professional photographers are not immune to this feeling. I can't tell you how many outfits I had laying on the bed before our family Christmas cards. It resulted in a full blown melt down. I yelled. Eric yelled. The dogs yelled. It was a WHOLE thing.

But never fear! Through my experience of horror, I have created some easy tips that will have you breathing a sigh of relief. Not sit back and enjoy the ride. We will be talking about comfort, patterns, colors and prepping for your shoot in this simple and image filled engagement guide.

xoxo- *Gamm*

Location.

If you are a downtown couple, let's go downtown! How about an open field? Maybe you met playing a sport or at a coffee shop. Pick a location that speaks to both of you and your personalities. It also sets the entire tone for your outfit choice. Which is why this one is first on the list of items to check off. Once you select a location that's half of the work!



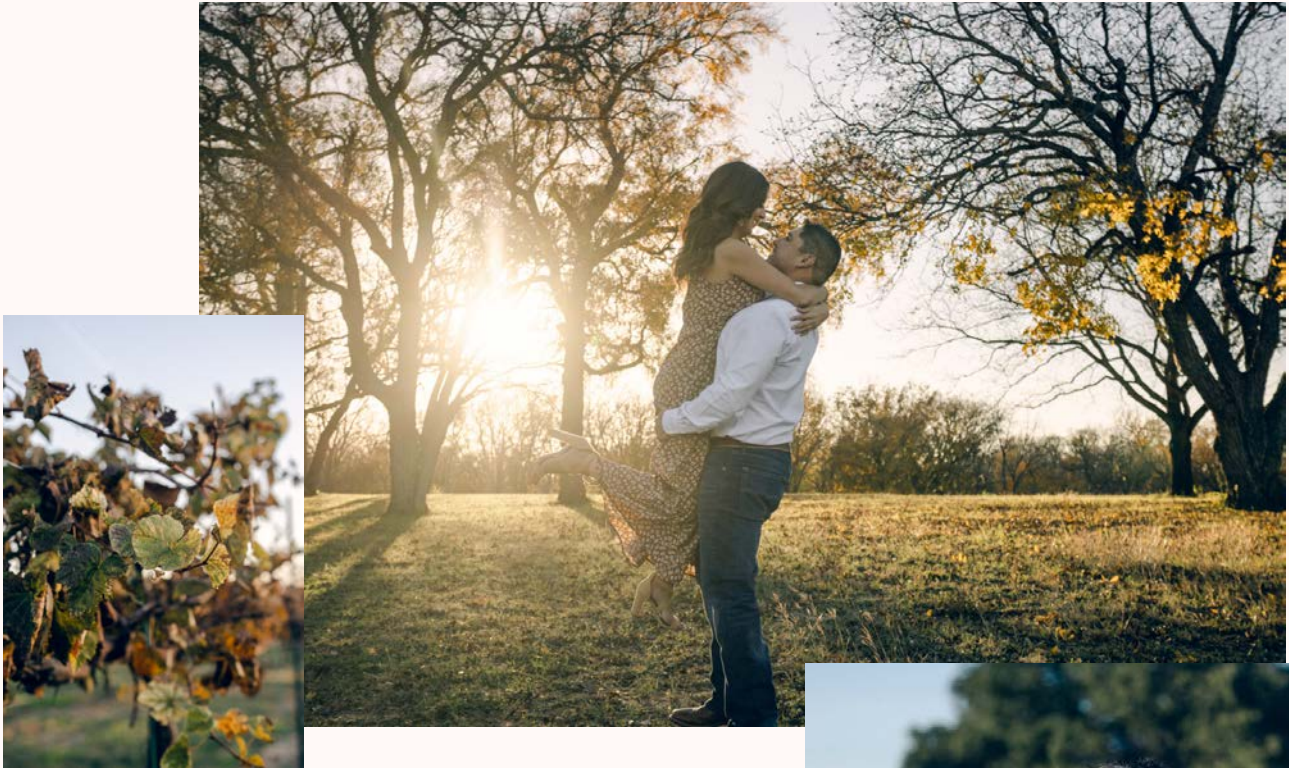
Comfort.

If it doesn't fit right, you'll know. I'll know and the camera will be able to see it in your face.



Make sure you can move, sit, dance or play in your outfit. Play up your best features. If love your back, show it off. Maybe you have toned legs, put on that skirt! When you know you look good, everything else will feel natural and effortless. Bring a casual outfit and a more formal one to have variety in your images. My favorite go-to? Wide leg and high waisted trousers that make my legs look a lot longer than they actually are!

Patterns & Colors.

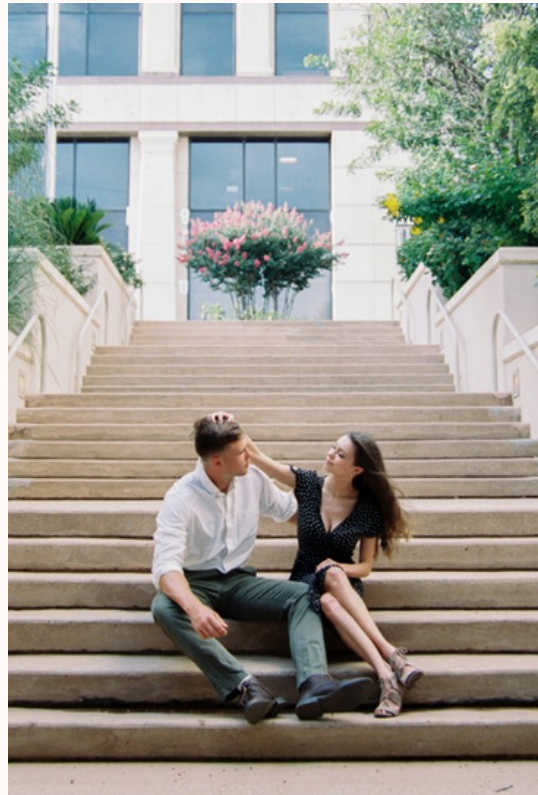


Go subtle with patterns and colors. Anything too bold or bright can really take away from you two and sometimes specific colors can reflect on your face and give it an odd tinge. It's also important to base your color palette off of the time of the season you are taking them. These colors that Janessa and David picked were a perfect compliment for their Fall engagement at a winery.

Struggling with finding complimentary colors? Start with the Adobe Color Wheel. It's a free online tool that lets you generate a color palette in minutes, or explore other palettes that have been created.



For The Guys.



You didn't think I'd forget about you? Long pants and closed-toed shoes will give you a sophisticated and masculine look for your photos. Shorts and open-toed shoes or bare feet are really only appropriate when there is a beach or some sort of water involved. Suit pants, dress pants or colored pants work best. Brown leather dress shoes complement almost every look, whether you're wearing a full suit, blazer, or simply a collared shirt.

Talk with each other to make sure that you're both dressed on the same level of formality. It can be common for one partner to like dressing up more than the other, so finding the common ground in between for you both can be big for your engagement photos.

And Finally.

YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION PACKING LIST

Here are the things I remind my couples to bring along to their engagement session:

- Flats or flip-flops for walking between photo locations (if you're planning to wear heels)
- Outfit two (including shoes and accessories), if you'd like a second outfit
- Touch-up makeup
- Water bottle (Always!)
- Coat or cover-up (for colder sessions)

And the final tip is make a day of it! Go to dinner afterwards, grab some drinks or go have brunch.

Whatever you choose, just take the time to enjoy the moment and be excited about embarking on your new adventure together!

