TOO PRETTY TO TOSS— OR TOSS OUT?

Very rarely does a bride toss her actual bouquet. Instead, florists commonly make a separate somewhat smaller toss bouquet so that the bride has her bouquet as a keepsake from her big day.

Professional freeze-drying techniques are available and allow brides to display their preserved bouquets behind glass—usually a glass dome that sits in a place of honor in their home.

Of course, you can dry your bouquet at home for free. Roses and sturdier flowers are great for hang-drying and preserving in a vase. Even florists use this technique. Daniela Isabella Ferdico Faget of Bella Signature Design still has a few roses from her mother's wedding bouquet, pressed between the pages of an old cookbook. She encourages brides to pick a few favorite blooms and do the same.

For most brides, photos of the day, and the bouquet, are enough of a memento. But if you're looking for a more momentous way to capture the beauty of your bouquet, consider a commissioned painting by a professional painter.

SHAPE SHIFTS

Scale is an important consideration for your bridal bouquet. An incorrectly shaped and sized bouquet will look strange in comparison with your dress style and body shape. Take these pointers from Carl Alan Floral Designs.

Photo: Studio Capture

If you're tall: A sphere-shaped bouquet works best.

Photo: Blooming Gallery

If you're petite: Try a free-form "gathering" bouquet.

Photo: Plants 'n Petals

If you're curvy: A classic round or slightly cascading bouquet reshapes the waistline.

Photo: Blooming Gallery

If you're wearing a ballgown: A traditional hand-tied bouquet is the way to go.

Photo: Blooming Gallery

If you're wearing a column gown: A classic round bouquet adds dimension.