

Tips to Make the Most of a Bridal Show

Attending a bridal show can be fun and exciting, but overwhelming and stressful at the same time. It is such a relief to be able to meet many different types of vendors all in one place, and it gives you a chance to see what's hot in the wedding industry. With so many vendors to check out, it is easy to become overwhelmed and not make the most of the experience. Brides and grooms can benefit from attending a bridal fair, but it's important to know some tips to make it a more enjoyable experience.

Before the Event

Create a new e-mail account

It is a good idea to keep your personal e-mail separate from your wedding e-mail. This will keep your inbox free from spam, and it will allow you to have a wedding specific e-mail account. In doing so, you are able to request more information from the vendors without risking your privacy. This e-mail account can also be used in your contact information when you enter drawings or contests. Keep in mind that you may want to use your main e-mail address for vendors that you set up contracts with.

Pre-register

Most bridal shows will allow you to pre-register for the event well in advance to the actual date of the show. Pre-registering helps give the show an estimate on the number of attendees. When you pre-register, you save time from filling out forms and waiting in lines at the entrance. There is also the chance that you can be placed in a pre-registration drawing for prizes.

Research Vendors prior to event

A great way to save you some time is to familiarize yourself with the vendors that will be at the bridal show. The vendor list can be found on the bridal show's website. Visiting the vendor's websites can give you an idea of what they do, and prices. Doing so can help to eliminate vendors that offer services that are not within your price range.

Have a plan

When attending a bridal show, your time to visit vendors will be limited. Before attending the show, make a list of the services you need, and an estimated budget for each of them. By having a list of the services you need, and a budget, you can determine which vendors are within your price range and worth speaking with.

Pre-printed labels

The main reason to attend a bridal show is to speak with potential vendors for your wedding. It is a good idea to have pre-printed labels that include your name, wedding date, wedding location, mailing address and wedding e-mail address that you can give to vendors to help save on time. It is not recommended that you include your phone number on the labels. They are also great for entering drawings and giveaways.

Pick up a bag at the event

When attending a bridal show, you can count on leaving with a lot of brochures and promotional information. All of this information can get pretty heavy, so picking up a bag to help carry it all can really help out.

Eat a light meal prior to show

Phone number

Before you go to a bridal show, decide on which phone number is best to contact you.

Give yourself time

Be prepared to stay anywhere from 2 to 5 hours.

Bring a calendar or planner

Bring a digital camera

To help you remember the vendors that stood out, and distinguish them from one another, bring a camera and take pictures.

Bring a friend

Bring someone to share this exciting time with, and to get a second opinion.

Bring a pen

Don't forget color samples and swatches

Wear comfy shoes!

During the Show

Get to the point and save time

The first question you need to ask a potential vendor is: Are you available on this date? If they say no then move on to a different vendor.

Be flexible

If a vendor you were hoping to book is unavailable on your specific date, don't worry. There are sure to be other vendors that can accommodate your needs.

After the Show

Be ready for an increase in the mail you receive

Organize your new information

Follow up with the vendors you like

Keep in mind that the good vendors book fast. If you like a vendor, make sure to let them know you are interested, and book them right away.