

Bridal Show Tips

Attending a Bridal Show is an important step in your wedding planning. Whether you plan to attend a large wedding expo or a more intimate show, these tips will help you make the most of your day.

Research the Show

Visit the different bridal show web sites where you can generally find a list of vendors, event schedule, pre-registration and admission fee information. Larger shows often provide a vendor map as well. Plan on visiting more than one expo, researching the shows ahead of time will help you plan your visits accordingly.

Plan Your Time

Print a vendor list and prioritize the vendors by how important it is that you visit their booth, for example 1~Must Visit, 2~Should Visit, 3~Try to Visit. Each vendor has something to offer so although they may not grab your attention up front, it's always a good idea to swing by. You might surprise yourself with finding a service you didn't even know you needed! Having an idea of who you want to see beforehand will help you map out where they are located and will help you manage your time so you don't miss the runway show!

Create a Wedding E-mail Account

Create a free wedding e-mail account you can use to give to vendors. This can also be used to sign up at wedding planning web sites, and later to receive wedding R.S.V.P.s.

Print & Bring Labels

Print labels that include your name, along with, wedding date, mailing address, and e-mail address. Adding "Bride" behind your name is also very helpful. You may always add your phone number to the label for certain vendors but I don't recommend printing this information to share with all vendors.

Bring a Large Bag

Many expos hand out free bags at the door but don't rely on this. Often this giveaway is limited to the first couple of hundred attendees or the show may have higher attendance than anticipated. Use the bag as your carry-all for your freebies and vendor information.

Bring a Calendar, Camera & Calculator

You may have all of these tools with you on your phone or tablet but if not, be sure to bring it along. These will be useful when it comes to scheduling consultations & tastings, checking estimates and capturing ideas you don't want to forget. If you do plan to use your phone or tablet, head out with a fully charged battery.

Bring Your Besties

Bring your bridesmaids, the groom, your mom, your future mother in law and any other members of your bridal entourage. It helps to have more than one opinion at the tasting tables and fashion shows. Many decisions can be made at one time rather than presenting options to everyone at a later time. Plus, when entering for a giveaway, they'll be able to add their names too so your group can get a greater chance of winning a prize.

Be Prepared to Buy

Some vendors may have items for purchase on location such wedding accessories, while others may need a deposit to secure a date. Bonus ~ some vendors offer a discount or promo if you book during the show.

Bring Color Swatches

Swatches will help you coordinate décor, formal wear, cakes, accessories and more. If you are set on a certain color or if you have a color swatch from intended wedding party attire this will help you address any color related items.

Be Flexible

Planning a wedding requires a lot of organization and flexibility. If the vendor you had in mind is booked on your date, don't stress, there's probably another great one right around the corner. If you have heard great things about a vendor but find they are booked, ask your other vendors for advice. Wedding professionals work with each other all of the time and can be a good resource for recommendations.