

Get The Most Out Of A Bridal Show

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To get the most from your bridal show experience, get there early and plan to stay for the entire event. If you are able to actually spend some time talking with vendors you can sometimes save yourself from additional appointments. Don't just walk by the vendor booths and pick up information. Try to talk to the representatives and see if you connect with them.

Personality and communication play a BIG part in wedding planning so this personal one-on-one time is important. On the other hand don't expect the vendor to give you all the answers. It can be hard sometimes to make a personal connection at bridal shows because there are so many people there. Be patient. If you come across a vendor that you are interested in, stay there until you have a chance to talk to them.

These events can be overwhelming to say the least. To ensure you get the most out of your time, Fusion Bridal has created a list of 10 helpful tips to make your visit a success.

1. **Wear comfortable shoes!** You may want to have the most stylish wedding around but today is not the day to show off your impeccable fashion sense. Leave the heels at home and slip on your runners. Remember, this is our number one tip for a reason!
2. **Create a plan.** You'll want to find out in advance the list of attending vendors (this should be available on the bridal show's website). Take notes of those that you must see and their location at the event. This way if you're running low on time you can skip ahead to the vendors that you really need to visit.
3. **Carry a big purse.** It's time for your favorite oversized tote to shine! All the vendors will have cards, pamphlets and samples that they'll be more than eager to give to you. Be sure to come prepared with lots of space to collect the seemingly endless array of information.
4. **Bring address labels for draws.** At the bridal show you will likely come across many contests and draws at the various booths. Instead of wasting precious time filling out forms, just slap a pre-made sticker on them. Your label should include your name, phone number, address, zip code, email and wedding date.
5. **Bring a pen and paper.** You'll want to jot down notes and exchange information with some of the wedding vendors. You may think there's no way that you'll forget the name of flowers you have been searching for, but by the end of the day you'll likely have a severe case of information overload. It's best to record the information immediately so you aren't left scratching your head later on.
6. **Find out the times of the fashion shows.** At most wedding expos the seating for the fashion shows will be given on a first come first serve basis.
7. **Go during down times.** To get the most out of your wedding show expedition, visit when the crowds will be minimal. Fewer future brides equals more time for vendors to talk with you. It can be hard sometimes to make a personal connection at bridal shows because there are so many people there. Be patient. Again, plan to stay all day - don't plan to be in and out in an hour. If you come across a vendor that you are interested in, stay there until you have a chance to talk to them. When you do talk to them, try to find out crucial information - such as if they are even available for your date and what their prices are. This will save you a lot of time!!!
8. **Know what to ask.** If you already have a general idea of what you're looking for, you will be able to get more accomplished. Bridal shows are an ideal way to find the vendor that is right for you. For example, instead of interviewing several wedding planners on different days, you can merely visit each planner's booth until you find the perfect fit.
9. **Leave your entourage at home.** It may seem like a good idea to bring your cousin's best friend's sister and everyone in between, but the more people you have with you, the more people you have to keep track of. It's a better bet to bring one or two people whose opinions will really be helpful to you rather than a chaotic, even if they are a well-intentioned, group of ladies.
10. **Make a day of it.** Although planning a wedding can be stressful it should also be a lot of fun! Enjoy your time at the expo; it should be inspiring and exciting. Why not stop for a nice lunch or raise cocktails at the end of a successful day with your nearest and dearest who have accompanied you to the show?

Remember, bridal shows can be overwhelming for everyone, including the wedding vendors. Many of them are trying a bridal show for the first time and they are nervous ... worried about their displays ... hoping they make themselves stand out from their competitors.

Don't make judgments on a wedding vendor if you don't catch his or her attention right away. Again, he or she may just be overwhelmed and distracted by all of the people. Believe me, every wedding vendor there would like to talk to every bride there - that isn't realistic - but *they are there to win your business so they WANT to talk to you! Best of luck!*