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## Top 10 Wedding Vendor Tips for Brides & Grooms

### 1. Speak Up—Contracts Are Negotiable!

When you get a contract, read it carefully. If something seems unfair or missing, ask for it to be changed. Most vendors are willing to adjust terms because they want your business!

♥ **Example:** A bride's makeup artist contract stated that the retainer would be refunded if the vendor canceled—but didn't say the bride would get her deposit back if she canceled. Legally, if a refund isn't in the contract, it's not assumed. If other language says the deposit is nonrefundable, you're likely out of luck!

### 2. Know Exactly What You're Paying For.

Hidden fees and upcharges are one of the biggest post-wedding regrets. Make sure you fully understand what's included, what costs extra, and how much add-ons will be.

♥ **Example:** A couple booked a venue but later realized the contract didn't specify how many bartenders were included. When they asked to add two more, the price was shockingly high. They felt taken advantage of—even though the vendor otherwise did a great job.

### 3. Book Major Vendors First—They May Offer More Than You Think!

Venues, florists, and entertainment companies often provide additional services. Lock these in first to avoid paying twice for something they could have included.

♥ **Example:** Some venues offer fireworks as part of their packages. If you book a fireworks company separately first, you might be paying double! Florists often provide more than flowers—think runners, signage, or draping. Bands and DJs can be full entertainment companies, offering photobooths, MCs, and even aerial performers.

### 4. Verify That Your Vendors Are Legitimate Businesses.

Anyone can create an Instagram page—but that doesn't mean they'll still be in business on your wedding day. Look for red flags before paying a deposit.





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♥ **Example:** A vendor with no website and only PayPal as a payment method might be 100% honest—or might disappear with your deposit. A real business should have an LLC, a legitimate payment system, and a contract protecting both parties.

## 5. Don't Rely on Brochures—Get Everything in Writing.

If a package isn't specifically written into your contract, it doesn't legally count. Vendors can change their offerings at any time unless the contract locks them in.

♥ **Example:** A couple booked a venue's "Gold Package" based on a brochure. But their contract only said "Gold Package" without spelling out what was included. The fine print said, "Venue reserves the right to change packages." Legally, the venue could alter the package without breaching the contract! You need language stating that the package includes the specific brochure details.

## 6. Visit Twice Before Signing.

**Love at first sight is great—but a second visit may reveal logistical issues you didn't notice the first time.**

♥ **Example:** A bride loved a venue and was ready to sign immediately. But when she visited again, she realized the layout didn't allow for a large stage for her 12-piece band. She also discovered the venue only offered long banquet tables for her guest count—something she hated but hadn't noticed before.

## 7. Be Honest About Your Budget From the Start.

Vendors respect transparency and can help you stay within your budget if they know what it is.

♥ **Example:** Some high-end stationers start at \$5,000 for invitations. By listing their prices on their website, they avoid wasting time with couples who aren't in that price range. If vendors don't list prices, ask for a range upfront so you don't fall in love with something you can't afford.





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## 8. Be Considerate—Let Vendors Know If You're Just Browsing

It's okay to explore options, but vendors appreciate knowing if you're serious or just gathering info.

♥ **Example:** Brides often try on expensive dresses “for fun” without intending to buy. While that's fine, it can take time away from brides ready to purchase. If you're just browsing, let the vendor know—they'll still give you great info, just without the full VIP treatment.

## 9. Be Careful About Who Signs the Contract

The person who signs is financially responsible—even if plans change. If parents or partners are paying, they should be on the contract too.

♥ **Example:** A bride signed all the vendor contracts herself. When her fiancé canceled the wedding a month before, she was legally responsible for all remaining payments—because she was the sole signer.

## 10. Read Every Word—Understand What You're Agreeing To

Most wedding contract issues stem from couples misunderstanding the details. If something isn't clear, ask for clarification before signing.

♥ **Example:** A bride booked her photographer for “4 hours” and assumed it included 2 hours at home before the ceremony. But the photographer thought it was 2 hours at the house and only 2 hours at the reception. Without it explicitly stated, the bride ended up without key reception photos.

**Bonus Tip:** When in doubt, get a lawyer to review your contracts! A small investment upfront can prevent major headaches (and lost money) later. Plus, you never know when you'll want a lawyer for other wedding-related matters – such as prenups, wills, who knows! Need help? Call Us! 201.330.0061