

MY WEDDING JOURNEY Curate Your Unforgettable, Stress-Free Wedding

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V Quick Reference Guide to Wedding Venue Red Flags

Plan with clarity. Avoid costly surprises.

Communication & Response Time

Why it matters

Slow replies now = delayed decisions later.

Questions to Ask

- What's your average response time during planning?
- How quickly do you respond to vendor or scheduling issues?

Red Flags to Watch

- Takes 3+ days to reply
- Ignores follow-ups
- Vague timelines or shifting energy after signing

Contracts & Fine Print

Why it matters

Vague terms = hidden fees and liabilities

Questions to Ask

- Can you walk me through your cancellation and refund policies?
- Are there clauses that allow price or service changes?

Red Flags to Watch

- "Venue reserves right to adjust fees"
- Legalese without plain-English translation
- "Client assumes all liability"

💸 Hidden Fees & Pricing

Why it matters

Surprise charges can inflate your budget by thousands.

Questions to Ask

- Can I see a full line-item breakdown of all costs?
- Are setup, teardown, overtime, or climate control fees extra?

Red Flags to Watch

- Vague terms like "facility adjustment"
- No written confirmation of included services
- Verbal-only promises

T Maintenance & Availability

Why it matters

Unfinished work or "surprise" repairs can derail your day.

Questions to Ask

- Is any maintenance scheduled near our event date?
- What's the backup plan if renovations aren't complete?

Red Flags to Watch

- "We're doing minor updates" with no timeline
- No documentation or before/after photos
- Last-minute closures

Reviews & Reputation

Why it matters

Patterns in reviews reveal the truth.

Questions to Ask

- How do you handle negative reviews or feedback?
- Can I speak to a recent client or see candid event photos?

Red Flags to Watch

- Repeated complaints (e.g., broken AC, noise restrictions)
- Defensive or dismissive replies to reviews
- Contradictions between website and third-party reviews

****** Amenities & Accessibility

Why it matters

Missing essentials = stressed vendors and frustrated guests.

Questions to Ask

- What catering equipment is available on-site?
- What are your vendor access hours and power capabilities?

Red Flags to Watch

- No refrigeration or prep space
- Limited restrooms or ADA access
- Strict preferred vendor lists

P Bonus Tip: Trust Your Gut

If something feels off early on, it probably is. The right venue should give you peace of mind — not stress.

H Use this guide during venue tours, planner meetings, or while reviewing contracts.