

Questions to ask your wedding decorator

The stage, the mandap, the entrance and the tables are what guests see first. Ask these questions before you fall for a photo on Instagram.

Vendor _____	Contact _____
Date we spoke _____	Event date _____ Quote £ _____
Deposit £ _____	Due _____ Balance £ _____ Due _____

Their work and style START HERE

- ☐ **Can we see recent work that you designed and built yourselves?**
Ask the venue, date and event behind a few photos. Some pages share inspiration images that are not the business's own work.
- _____
- _____
- ☐ **Have you worked at our venue before?**
A decorator who knows the room knows the ceiling height, the fixing points and the access door.
- _____
- _____
- ☐ **Which ceremonies have you decorated?**
A mandap for the pheras, a stage for a walima, a mehndi seating area and a Sikh wedding reception all need different thinking.
- _____
- _____
- ☐ **Can you work from our ideas, or do you prefer set packages?**
Some decorators design from scratch; others adapt a set range. Both can be good, as long as you know which.
- _____
- _____

The quote WHAT YOU ARE PAYING FOR

- ☐ **Can we have an itemised quote?**
Stage, backdrop, mandap, entrance, aisle, table centres, lighting, flowers, chair covers and drapes should each be listed.
- _____
- _____

☐ **Which items are fresh and which are artificial?**

Fresh flowers cost more and change with the season. Know which you are getting.

☐ **What is hired and what do we keep?**

Most decor is hired and goes back after the event. Ask what happens if something is damaged or goes missing.

☐ **Are delivery, set-up, take-down and VAT in the price?**

Ask for the total you will actually pay.

☐ **What if our guest count or table count changes?**

Know the deadline for final numbers and the cost of changes.

Set-up, safety and the day LOGISTICS

☐ **How long do you need to set up and take down?**

Compare it with the venue's access times. A large stage can take hours.

☐ **Do you know the venue's rules on fixings, candles, confetti and drapes?**

Venues often have strict rules. Your decorator should check them, not you.

☐ **Are your fabrics flame-retardant, and is your lighting safe?**

Venues often ask for proof. Ask what paperwork they can provide.

☐ **Do you hold public liability insurance?**

Many venues ask to see it before a decorator can work there.

☐ **Who from your team stays during the event?**

A named person on site can fix a fallen drape or a failed light.

☐ **How do you handle a changeover between events?**

If the mehndi and the wedding are in one hall on consecutive days, ask how quickly they can turn the room.

Paperwork and payment BEFORE YOU PAY

☐ **How much is the deposit, and when is the balance due?**

Get both amounts and dates in writing.

☐ **What happens if we cancel or change the design?**

Custom builds may mean real costs early on. What a business keeps should still reflect its actual loss. Our deposit and booking checklist (thenodus.uk/resources/deposit-and-booking-checklist) explains this as general information.

☐ **Will the final design be agreed in writing?**

A signed-off design with photos or sketches avoids "that is not what we agreed" on the day.

Notes

Tick each question once you have the answer in writing. Before you pay, go through the deposit and booking checklist (thenodus.uk/resources/deposit-and-booking-checklist).