

Questions to ask your mehndi artist

Bridal mehndi takes hours and the stain shows in every photo. Ask these questions before you book the artist and the date.

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

Say no to "black henna". The British Skin Foundation warns that black henna tattoos often contain PPD, a hair dye, and that using PPD on the skin this way is illegal in the UK. It can cause blistering and burns. Real henna stains orange to brown.

The henna itself START HERE

☐ Do you mix your own henna, and what is in it?

Ask for the full ingredient list, including any essential oils. A good artist will tell you without hesitating, and it matters if anyone in the family has allergies.

☐ Can I have a patch test first?

A small test a few weeks before is sensible, especially if you have sensitive skin or allergies.

☐ What colour should I expect, and how long does it last?

Ask them to explain how the stain develops and what affects it, such as heat and aftercare.

☐ What aftercare do you recommend?

Ask how long to leave the paste on, and what to avoid in the first day.

Design and timing THE BRIDAL SESSION

☐ **Can we see your recent bridal work, including close-ups?**

Look at fine lines, symmetry and how full designs look on real hands, not just on paper.

☐ **How long will my design take?**

Full bridal designs on hands, arms and feet take hours. Plan food, breaks and good light.

☐ **When should I have it done before the wedding?**

Many brides have it one or two days before so the stain deepens. Your artist will know their henna best.

☐ **Can you add names, dates or personal motifs?**

Hidden initials and small symbols are common. Share ideas early.

☐ **Do you offer a trial?**

A small trial helps you both agree the style before the day.

Guests and logistics THE MEHNDI NIGHT

☐ **How many guests can you do per hour, and how many artists will come?**

For a busy mehndi night you may need a small team. Ask for simple designs that can be done quickly.

☐ **Is the price per guest, per hour or a set fee?**

Know how the guest price works and what counts as one hand.

☐ **Do you travel to us, and is travel in the price?**

Ask about mileage and parking, especially if the session is at home.

☐ **What do you need from us?**

A table, good light, a plug socket, and somewhere quiet for the bride.

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

Some venues ask for it before an artist can work there.

Paperwork and payment BEFORE YOU PAY

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

Get both in writing, along with the times and number of guests.

☐ **What happens if we cancel, or if you cannot come?**

Ask who would replace them and what you are owed. Our deposit and booking checklist (thenodus.uk/resources/deposit-and-booking-checklist) explains your rights as general information.

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).