

Before you pay a deposit: what you should double check?

Paying wedding deposits is exciting, it makes everything feel real. But in the wedding industry, deposits are often non-refundable, so it's worth slowing down and checking a few key things before you hit "send". Here's what every couple should double check before committing their money.

Exactly what does the deposit cover?

Not all deposits work the same way. Some come off the final balance; others act as a booking fee and are additional. Check:

- Is the deposit deducted from the total cost?
- Under what circumstances is it refundable, if at all? If it's not written down, assume it doesn't exist.

Cancellation and postponement terms

Life happens - illness, job changes, venue issues. Remember the pandemic? Yeah, me too.

Before paying, read the cancellation clause carefully as clarity matters:

- What happens if you cancel?
- What happens if the supplier cancels?
- Are you allowed to postpone? What are the conditions and is there a fee?

What's included

You should never make too many assumptions.

Double check:

- Hours of coverage. How strict is this?
- Set up and takedown time. Is it included in the hire period?
- Travel or accommodation fees. This can be common if your supplier is travelling out of their area.
- Is VAT chargeable and if so, is it included in the quoted price?
- Do they supply a contract which covers these things?

Your date, times, and location

Sounds obvious, but mistakes happen. We're only human.

Confirm in writing:

- The exact date, including the day
- Start and finish times
- Ceremony and reception locations. We love a postcode
- Access times or any venue restrictions for suppliers

Legal and licensing

For civil ceremonies, make sure:

- The venue is licensed
- A registrar is available and provisionally booked
- You understand notice of marriage requirements

If you're planning a celebrant-led ceremony, confirm what is, or isn't legally binding.

Insurance and emergencies

Ask suppliers:

- Do they have public liability insurance?
- What's their backup plan if they're ill or unavailable?

And for you: wedding insurance can protect deposits if the unexpected happens.

Deposits are about trust, but they should be backed up by clear paperwork. If something feels vague or rushed, pause and ask questions. Any reputable and experienced supplier will respect this.

A calm double check now can save a lot of stress later.