

Weddings at home

IF YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE THE SPACE TO HOLD YOUR WEDDING AT HOME, IT CAN ADD A REALLY INTIMATE ELEMENT TO YOUR DAY. WEDDING PLANNER **BERNADETTE CHAPMAN OF DREAM OCCASIONS**, BASED IN COGGESHALL, GIVES HER TIPS ON HOW TO DO IT YOURSELF IN STYLE



Are you one of those fortunate people who can hold their wedding at home or at a friend's property? Congratulations on having the opportunity to create an event truly personal and individual. But if the initial excitement has now given way to disorder and distress, you're not alone - home weddings can be difficult. It's a much greater challenge than holding your event at a hotel or venue because you have to organise everything from scratch, with no professional to guide you along the way.

Think carefully before choosing a marquee - remember to consider the sort of shape you might like; whether you want windows, doors or to be open on one side; suitable flooring; where you will put amenities like the catering tent and toilets; how you will arrange the dance floor and tables. There is lots to think about!

Here are some other points you might not have yet considered:

PLANNER

Seriously think about having a planner to assist with the organisation or at least project manage the wedding day for you. A planner can decorate the venue, take delivery of goods and manage the day itself, leaving you to relax and party.

FLOWERS

Speak with your florist about creating a high impact display, small low arrangements just get lost in the ceiling height. A combination of high and low arrangements works best.

POWER

Be very aware of power - how much do the band, toilets and caterer need? Is the

home supply enough and more importantly, do you want to risk the power tripping? Think seriously about hiring a small generator if only for peace of mind.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

Ensure the neighbours are aware of the wedding and anticipated noise. If they are not invited then why not pay for a night away for them? That way you should reduce any requests for music to be turned down.

SECURITY

Is there a room in the house that can be locked? If so use this for valuables and wedding presents and give the key to your planner or bridesmaid, or hire a security guard for the day.

PARKING

Do you have sufficient space? If parking is in a nearby field then provide a solid walkway for guests in case it is raining, as walking across a sodden field in heels is not much fun. Ensure there is good signage so people know where to park, and decent lighting.

TOILETS

Even if the house is right next to the marquee I strongly advise hiring mobile toilets; they are very luxurious now and well worth the expense. Alternatively, house the toilet in a marquee attached to the main one; you could also create a vanity area with toiletries and mirror.

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