

When planning an outdoor function at home in a yard, or any non-commercial site where events aren't regularly held, allow room for a van or trailer to get as close as possible to the play site. If your bandstand area is in any way difficult to access with dollies or equipment on rollers, be sure to tell the agent at first conversation. If your function involves a location other than a first floor load in, make sure the act knows, so set up-times can be arranged accordingly. Some acts charge more for problematic cartage: second floor set-up, steps or difficult load-in places. When decorating a stage area, make sure you leave room for the act to get equipment on, and room to place speakers on each side. The bandstand, or band setup area should be immediately adjacent to the dance floor opposite the head table. This enables the act to "work the crowd" better, and at the same time, see when events are getting ready to take place across the room. Small acts can setup in about 6' deep by 10' wide areas, where show & dance acts prefer 12' deep by 16-20' wide areas (or even larger). Adequate electricity is critical for performance. The act cannot even get a sound check, much less play, unless electricity is available and operational. Unless arranged otherwise, it's the buyer's responsibility to have adequate power within 50' of the play area at least 4 hours prior to event start. Minimum needs: one dedicated 15-20 amp circuit for small acts, and two-three for larger ones-daytime. Add one more if your event is at night-for lighting show. Don't forget that there might be other drains on the power (tent lights, fans, heaters, catering equipment) that need consideration. Our agents will discuss this with you. We do not charge for a "walk through" meeting at your site (if within easy drive distance). We want to ensure there are no glitches or major problems at setup, and that the entertainment will be perfect.

It has always been the standard in the entertainment business that if a function is scheduled for outdoors, and the weather does not cooperate, the act/band is still to be paid, whether it plays or not. This is also spelled out in the contract. It is your responsibility to have an alternate site or contingency plan so the safety of the guests, musicians and their equipment will not be compromised by the weather. Rain can blow in under the sides of a tent and create an electrical hazard for the entertainers and your guests. It may be prudent to tell the act not to play, rather than take a chance on an injury and/or lawsuit. Or it can be just too cold for the entertainers to do a professional job; guitar strings don't stay in tune, keyboardists and drummers fingers can't function as they do in normal weather. Heaters will ensure the show goes on. Beachside weddings are always popular, but be realistic about fluctuating waterside conditions. Keep in mind that the picture you saw of idyllic weather and everyone smiling at the perfect event was probably a staged photo shoot on a perfect day and with huge windscreens (or even photo-edited). Wind noise will be what you hear most if using microphones. Setting a band next to the Gulf, where the salt air can be disastrous to equipment, and extra time is needed to transport across the sand, requires a lot of cooperation and understanding from all people involved. It takes a lot of work and time to set up a lot of band equipment and then perform outside. Some acts charge extra if they have to set up more than one time or in two locations. If you have recorded music to be played, be sure to mention that early on so the proper equipment to play it will be readily available at your event.

The larger acts need a place to change into costumes, and, if you can provide an area for the act to dress, with food, water and soft drinks, your act will go the extra mile to put on a great show. Always, if you have any questions, just call one of our agents. We don't want your money for one night, we want you to be a satisfied customer.