

E-Newsletter



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About NABAS—The Balloon Association

NABAS is the only independent national trade association for balloon decorators, retailers, wholesalers & manufactures and suppliers of balloon related services such as gas & air in the party and promotional balloon industry.

All good professional balloon decorators are members of NABAS who ensure that their members follow a code of conduct to ensure that standards of good practice are adhered to and also promote good practices for protection of the environment.

To become members of NABAS the balloon professional must attend NABAS approved training courses and obtain a recognised training certificate in balloon decorations and designs which also includes vital health and safety aspects of the industry. Being members of NABAS also provides a learning and sharing environment between balloon professionals to ensure that ideas of creativity are fresh and exciting.

It will be no surprise that Party Buds balloon crew are proud to be full members of NABAS who pride themselves in achieving both basic and level 2 training certificates.

About Balloon Releases

Balloon releases are fun, spectacular and fulfil a variety of promotional and fundraising objectives. However if best practice is not followed major problems can occur. Balloon releases have received some bad press recently promoted by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) stating that balloons released into the environment are responsible for the death of some sea life and other animals. NABAS have carried out their own research and have concluded that there is no solid evidence that a balloon on its own has ever caused the death of an animal, whether in the sea or on land. In all cases cited by the MCS there are numerous other objects also found inside the dead animal that are more likely to have caused or contributed to its' death. NABAS ensure that all its members adhere to a code of conduct when releasing balloons which was put together in conjunction with the MCS. All NABAS members will carry out balloon releases in accordance with this code of conduct and in so doing will minimise the effect on the environment.

Below are a few facts that are very often overlooked:

- Latex balloons are 100% natural, made from the sap of rubber trees - a completely natural substance.
- A correctly inflated latex balloon will, when released, reach a height of approximately 5 miles before bursting and shattering into many tiny fragments which will return to earth and then decompose.

Important Do's & Don'ts when having a balloon release

- Always, where possible have a trained balloon professional to do your release
- Never release balloons with ribbons attached or secured in a bunch. Ribbons/strings cause injury to wild life
- Never release foil balloons, these are not natural and do not decompose and can cause damage to electrical overheads and injure wild life.
- Never inflate balloons larger than 9"
- For releases of 5,000 balloons you must apply in writing for permission to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at least 28 days in advance of the release because balloons can interfere with air traffic.

Balloon in a Box

A balloon in a box is exactly as its name suggests... a helium balloon which you send through the post to someone as a surprise. From birthdays, get well, weddings, good luck, to just simple hello or I Love You.

To order your balloon in a box, contact info@partybuds.co.uk with the address details and balloon style.

We need at least 5 days notice before the arrival date of your balloon in a box.



Busman's Holiday!



Everyone deserves a holiday right? Well Party Buds is no different! The only problem is the Balloon Crew are so passionate about balloons that we don't always manage to switch off and always looking for new creativity ideas. When one of our Balloon professionals was on holiday in [Aruba](#) in the [Caribbean](#), minding her own business and sitting down for a meal at Señor Frog's restaurant, she noticed that the staff there were trying to decorate their restaurant with balloons. Caroline could not sit and watch any longer as she saw balloons of different sizes going up and just had to offer her services! She took down their feeble displays and replaced them with something spectacular that left the customers and staff stunned. The staff at the restaurant were delighted with the display and were quite upset when she told them it was her last night, I think they had her week worked out for her doing balloon decorations! All in a days work for the balloon crew at Party Buds.

Wedding Planning

The wedding day is an important day, not just for the happy engaged couple, but for the parents of the bride and groom to be. For the most special day the bride and groom are likely to have, the budget, the invitations, and all the bits and pieces that makes the ceremony and reception planned carefully. The success is all down to the planning. So it is important that you plan as much as you can. Planning a wedding is fun, exciting but can be extremely stressful for all involved in making that special day perfect. Listed below is a useful timeline.

12 - 16 Months before the wedding

Choose a wedding date. Don't rush. Give yourself enough time. The best way to do this is to visit ceremony and reception facilities at which you would like to be married and have your reception. Choose a date based on availability. If you give yourself a year or more to plan, you have a much greater chance of booking your desired venue on your desired date.

Start a wedding file. This is a file or folder to keep all your wedding documents, ideas, suppliers, colour swatches and contracts etc

Discuss & Choose the style and formality of your wedding. This is your day and you should make it your own. Pick a style of wedding which matches your personality and style. From Formal, Semi-Formal or Informal. This will also help in narrowing down which venues you will consider.

Decide on a wedding budget. Common sense dictates that you do not spend beyond your means. The last thing you want is to begin your marriage in major debt because of your wedding.

Select a ceremony location. Keep in mind that reservations are sometimes booked over a year in advance, so if you find one that you like, put a security deposit down to hold the date. Always check the cancellation/refund policies first and have them in writing.

Select a reception site. Many times the ceremony and reception will be held in the same facility. If this is not the case, be sure that the ceremony and reception facilities are available on the same date

Start shopping for a wedding gown. Custom gowns can take up to a year to prepare. Be sure to begin this process as early as possible. Sometimes the wedding gown can become a stress factor, so the more time you leave for this, the better. Keep in mind that alterations and final dress fittings can also eat up extra time. There are no refunds on wedding gown purchases, so make sure your selection is 100% what you want.

8 - 10 Months before the wedding

Select your bridal party and request their participation in your special day.

Wedding officiant. This can be a religious or civil person depending on your beliefs and preference.

Reception Caterer. If your reception site does not provide one, you will need to arrange for your own. Ensure to secure your date with a signed contract and a security deposit. Remember to check the cancellation/refund policy.

Photographer and Videographer. If your budget allows for it, hire a professional. There will only be one chance to get this right.

Band and/or DJ. Ensure you see plenty as every one is different. Review demo CD's to hear their sound and style. A good band or DJ can make a good reception, but a bad one can all but ruin it.

Decide on bridesmaids dresses. When ordering your gowns for the bridesmaids, be sure to order them at the same time to assure an identical dye lot. Be sure to bring this factor up to the person taking the dress order as well.

Start compiling names & addresses for the guest list. If you are limited to the number of guests that can be invited to the wedding, be sure to give your families the number of guests they may include in their list. By requesting a certain number of guest beforehand, you alleviate a lot of potential stress. Also, try to make the request even on both parents' sides.

Sign up for a gift registry. Gift registries are a great way of ensuring that you get items you really want and can use. It also makes your guests' shopping much easier. Be sure to choose items for your registry from every price range to accommodate each guest's budget.

5 - 7 Months before the wedding

Finalise the guest list. Determine the number of invitations and thank you cards that need to be ordered.

Send out "save the date" notes to your guests. Fridge magnets are a brilliant way to keep the day in view of your guests

Shop for your wedding stationery. Invitations, thank you cards and personal stationery. For a more personal touch, try making your own.

Select your wedding cake. Give careful thought to you & your fiancé's favourite flavours, style, size, decorations and colour.

Begin preparations for your honeymoon. Consult with your travel agent and discuss possible honeymoon destinations and prices. Make arrangements early to catch the lowest airfares.

4 Months before the wedding

Book your Balloon Decorator. There is only one we recommend!

Book your florist. Once you have found one that appeals to you be sure to secure your order with a deposit.

Shop for your wedding rings. You should do this with your fiancé. You will both be wearing these rings for a long time, so you should both be happy with your selection. If you are having your rings engraved, ensure they are done in plenty of time.

3 Months before the wedding

Send out your invitations. Be sure to include everyone who received a save the date magnet or card

Select the suits for the groom and other men in the party. If you are hiring, ensure you understand the cancellation/refund policy and also the return policy.

Discuss finalised menu options and costs with your caterer/hotel. Confirm arrival and departure times, as well as any added extras.

Arrange transportation/ limousine service for the wedding party to the ceremony and reception.

Order wedding favours Don't forget the extra's such as imprinted napkins, matches, and coasters.

Shop for bridal party gifts.

2 Months before the wedding

Choose your wedding music and share your selections with your Band or DJ.

1 Month before the wedding

Apply for your marriage license

Have a final gown fitting

Choose all of your wedding accessories

Visit your hair stylist, work on a style with your veil

Visit your make-up artist the same day

Discuss and finalise details with wedding service providers

2 Weeks before the wedding

Call any guests that haven't sent back their response card

Give the caterer a finalised head count.

Pick up your marriage license.

Give your DJ or Band a list of songs that you may have come up with since your last contact with them.

Confirm rehearsal plans with your officiant and church wedding coordinator.

Obtain any legal information regarding changing your name for: Drivers License, Vehicle Documents, Credit Cards, Bank Accounts, Passport, Insurance Policies, Subscriptions, Employment Records, Billing Address/Name Change.

Complete floor and seating plan for reception.

Confirm all rental and floral delivery dates and times.

Confirm arrival time for all attendants.

1 Week before the wedding

Make any last minute seating arrangements/adjustments.

Organize your wedding day attire, make sure you try everything on & it fits perfectly.

Confirm honeymoon reservations.

Pack for your honeymoon.

Pick up passports and travel documents (if necessary).

Pick up formalwear. Be sure to try everything on & make sure all your accessories are there.

1 Day before the wedding

Go through your list of things to do and make sure all your bases are covered.

Give rings to best man.

Try to get a good night's sleep!

YOUR WEDDING DAY!

Eat Something! It will help the Pre-Wedding Jitters if you have something in your stomach!

Get your hair and make-up done (wear a button up shirt to keep everything perfect).

Have someone check the reception site. (as early as possible)

Dress for your wedding.

Have photos taken with family.

Most importantly... If anything doesn't go according to plan, don't worry, your guests probably won't even notice the difference.



AFTER THE HONEYMOON

Write Thank-You notes.

Change your name

2008 Wedding Exhibitions

Party Buds have 3 wedding exhibitions confirmed for the rest of this year:

- **7th September**—Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead
- **21st September**—Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre
- **19th October**—Gleneagles Manor Hotel— Harpenden

Come and join us on the above dates and receive a **10% discount** when you book your balloons for your wedding with us

Charity & Fundraising



These last 3 months, Party Buds have supported Herts Air Ambulance by assisting Brookfield Farm in Aston, Stevenage with a fun day. Despite the terrible weather and heavy winds, we managed to release over 100 balloons in aid of Herts Air Ambulance and raised over £300. There was sausage tasting, face painting and the Zoo Man with his cute animals, if you can call a spider cute!

A big thank you to those who braved the terrible weather and for their support, especially to those who helped us chase after our gazebo when it blew into the next field! Hertbeat FM's Streetbeat team, Marcus, came and showed his support and got soaking wet, but we couldn't persuade him to have his face painted... maybe next time Marcus !!

If you would like to help Herts Air Ambulance with their fundraising, please visit their website for more details: <http://www.hertsairambulance.uk.com/>

If you would like to see some of our work, please visit our Showcase Gallery on our website:

www.partybuds.co.uk where you can also see some of our customer comments

Party Buds can be contacted on 01438 244 590 or by email: info@partybuds.co.uk