

Say "I Do" to a Special Event Home

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Unspoiled beaches and temperate climate make the Outer Banks an ideal place to celebrate weddings year-round. But once you've chosen the area, how do you pick the location? Many couples are choosing to host their events at one of the heavily amenitized special event homes available as weekly rentals. The advantage to choosing a special event home for the occasion is the versatility the space provides. The home can serve as a location for the rehearsal dinner, ceremony, reception and even as accommodations for out of town guests.

Once you have chosen a home and ensured that it will allow your event, there are certain questions you need to ask your property manager. In addition to the standard rental charges, is there a special event fee and how much is it? A special event fee helps prepare your vacation home for the big day and accounts for the extra wear and tear that occurs from the additional people. Also ask, "What is the maximum sleeping occupancy and the maximum event capacity?" You want to make sure you follow the terms and conditions outlined in your lease agreement.

In regards to the maintenance of your rental home, you want to clarify that certain matters will be addressed before you and your guests arrive. The curb appeal of your event site will live on forever in your wedding photos. Make sure the property is regularly maintained by a landscaper and that there will be no scheduled upkeep during your event, including the irrigation system. Nothing destroys a magic moment and creates chaos like seventy five guests receiving a surprise soaking! Speaking of water, whether you plan on using the pool and hot tub or you just want them as a backdrop make sure they are cleaned and serviced if they are open during your event. Although it is an unseen and unglamorous item, the home's septic tank warrants a thorough check.

Now that everything is organized in regards to your special event home, be sure to look into neighborhood and county regulations. Is there a special event permit needed? While Duck is one of the few towns that requires a permit, it never hurts to contact the appropriate office to double check. Often, you pick up good advice and information about everything from overflow parking to trash collection. Attention to details beforehand ensures a much smoother Big Day!

