Stage Buying Guide

8 Things to Consider When Buying Your Stage

Buying a stage platform can be overwhelming at first, especially if you're not exactly sure what you need. We have provided a quick reference guide to help walk you through the decision-making process so you get the system you need and avoid costly mistakes.

The first and most important step is that you purchase your staging equipment from a reputable manufacturer. This will ensure that you won't have to deal with equipment that doesn't work for your event or an incident that impacts the safety of the performers.

This guide will give you things to consider when determining what kind of staging platform will be best for you. You can also ask one of our experts at performance.stageright.com/contact for advice.

Before buying your staging platform, here are a few important questions you need to ask yourself.

What type of events are you hosting?

This is the most important question. Most of the questions below will revolve around this as well.

The events that you're hosting will play a large role in finding your perfect portable stage. Platforms can be designed and configured to meet the needs of specific events. Does your stage need to hold many performers at a time or only a few? A stage that'll be used for orchestras needs to be larger than a graduation stage, for example. What kind of equipment will be on your stage? Props, electronics, and other equipment are all things that should be taken into consideration as well.



If your events are going to be outdoors, your staging system should have the capability to stand on uneven terrain.

What stage surface do you need?

Different stage surfaces work better for different events and applications. A carpeted surface is best when you need to keep foot noise at a minimum like for speaker events or for a string quartet. For events like jazz band, you want to use a reflective surface. Hard, reflective surfaces like this also work best for applications where food is involved, like the head table at a wedding reception.

If you're going to be using a lot of lighting and video during your performances, a black stage surface will be ideal. When using a portable stage outdoors, you'll need a surface that can be exposed to the elements.

How often will you need to convert your performance area?

One of the main benefits of portable staging is that you can convert your space for different events. The conversion activities do take some time and staff resources, so getting the system that has the lowest impact on either is important to consider. Movement and handling become important considerations. So selecting the best options,

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including where items fit in your storage can make this process either easy or difficult depending on your pre-planning and making the right equipment purchase.

What accessories do you need?

There are a variety of accessories that are available for portable staging systems. Accessories can give your stage a finished look and also provide functionality. A few different accessories you may need, depending on the type of events you're putting on, for functionality are access ramps, chair stops, guardrails, crowd control barricades, or stairs. Things like backdrops and skirting will give your stage a finished look.

What is the size of the room?

The dimensions of the room you will be performing in are crucial. Not only should you consider the length and width of the floor space, the ceiling height is just as important. Large spaces may require a higher stage platform for the patrons in the back to be able to see. Smaller spaces are used for a more intimate feel, and therefore benefit from a lower height stage.



What is your setup crew like?

How big is your setup crew? Do you have 12 people or 2? You can easily set up portable staging with just 2 people, but with a larger crew, you may be able to do a few things differently. Knowing the demands of different events and timing can help to make the most of your staff. This will also help give you some direction on what equipment is going to best fit your needs.

How much storage space do you have?

Purchasing any equipment will require storage space when not in use. The benefit of not building a permanent stage is that you can clear the space when it's needed for other activities. The size and layout of your portable staging system will affect how much storage space you'll need. Understanding how and what you are going to store will make your conversions go smoothly. Make sure you discuss these needs with your stage sales experts to make sure you get the solution that fits your specific needs and isn't just a cookie cutter option. Having the right carts that fit into your storage spaces is integral to success.

What are your local codes?

Understanding your local codes and the impact they may have on how the event is ran is important. You may also need to be ready to accommodate wheel chairs or other patrons with special access needs. Guardrails will be needed once you pass a certain height of stage or if you have people seated on the platform. Working with a recognized staging company will help you with addressing these needs by the design of the equipment and accessory options.

Next steps

Now that you know more about what you need to consider when buying your stage, reach out to our experts and we can help you put together the perfect staging solution.

Contact an expert and get started on your project at Performance.StageRight.com/contact

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