

The logo for King's Venues, featuring the words "KING'S" and "VENUES" in a bold, white, sans-serif font stacked vertically inside a solid red square.

KING'S VENUES

Don't let rain stop play!

Cold snaps, rain, thunder storms – who doesn't love an English summer?! As every event organiser knows, the British weather can't be relied on when you're hosting an outdoor event. But planners are a hardy bunch and with a little organisation and some 'worst case scenario' planning, there's no reason why an outdoor summer party can't be a huge success, whatever the weather.

Here at Kings' Venues we've helped put on hundreds of summer events which have had to endure the uncertainty of an English summer, and we've learnt a thing or two about contingencies. Have a look at our round-up of ideas – one of them might save your summer party from disaster.

Heaters

However hot the day has been, it's likely that there'll be a chill in the air after the sun goes down. Outdoor heaters, fire pits, heat lamps, open fires... there are lots of ways you can be prepared for a dip in temperature. Just make sure you speak to your venue about what's allowed in the space you're using.

Inside option

If your space is completely exposed, you'll need an indoor plan B in which to host the entire event. This means every stage of your party needs to be planned twice to make sure there are no unforeseen hiccups. Is there somewhere for your string quartet to position themselves if you have to come inside? Are there any restrictions on bringing your barbecue indoors? Treat your inside option as you would your outside option – in other words if you feel it compromises too many items on your wish list, consider looking for a different venue altogether.

Individual comfort

Umbrellas, shawls and blankets should be stock-piled in abundance to ensure all guests can shelter from the occasional shower and keep warm if it gets cold. It's well worth making sure all bad weather paraphernalia is either branded, themed or at least colour-coordinated with your scheme. They could become quite a dominating factor in your event photography, so they will need to look the part.

Warming food and drink

Summer is a fabulous time to celebrate fresh, seasonal produce like strawberries and salads, but if your party is going on until late, it's a nice idea to serve a slightly more 'warming' second round of food and drinks after dark. Hot chocolate and brandy are a great way to thaw out guests as the night goes on. A hog roast or bacon sandwiches would also fuel your guests' second wind.

Gazebos

If there's an outdoor space you've fallen in love with for your event, but the venue has no indoor option, you could consider hiring a gazebo as a contingency measure. There are lots of companies that provide really sturdy structures which will offer your guests the shelter they need from rain and wind while you maintain an outdoor feel to your event.

Budget

With every aspect of your event which may require amending if the weather goes bad, make sure you are fully aware of any cost implications. Check with your venue and all suppliers so there are no nasty surprises.

Health and safety

Will the grass get wet and slippery if it rains? Can the AV equipment cope with a light shower? Will your gazebo blow away in high winds? There are lots of factors to consider when trying to stay outside in bad weather. Make sure you have completed a comprehensive risk-assessment of your outdoor space so there are no accidents while you try to brave adverse weather.

Who makes the call and when?

If the decision to implement some or all of your contingency plans is a last-minute one, it's going to mean all hands on deck. Speak to your venue, colleagues, suppliers and waiting staff so they know who has the final say and find out the amount of notice they will require. You don't want to be mid-move when your guests start arriving.

Summer at Kings' Venues

We have over 200 unique spaces, lots with outside space and views over the river. Give our venue team a call on **020 7848 1700** to discuss which one would work best for your summer party or visit our [summer parties page](#) on the website.

<http://www.kingsvenues.com/News/SummerSizzler.aspx>