

A flower arch comes together with a stable frame, layered greenery, and blooms kept hydrated where needed. Assemble and decorate it in manageable sections, then check its balance and security before guests arrive.

Selecting a frame and suitable flowers

Choose a freestanding arch made to support decorative materials, and check its weight limit before you begin. Assemble and anchor it according to the maker's directions. Take extra care outdoors: wind can turn foliage and flowers into a sail. Use suitable weights or anchors, and confirm with the venue which fixing methods are allowed.

Pick blooms that fit the location and the amount of time they will spend out of water. Roses, carnations, and chrysanthemums can work well, although heat and handling affect how long they stay in good condition. Buy a few additional stems so you can swap out any that arrive damaged. For greenery, choose pieces long enough to cover the frame, such as eucalyptus or ruscus.

Have clean scissors or floral snips, reusable cable ties or floral wire, water tubes, and buckets filled with water ready. Gloves help protect your hands from wire and thorny stems. Consider both the arch's size and how much of it you plan to cover. A cluster across the top and down one side will need fewer flowers than a design that wraps around the whole frame.

Assembling and decorating the arch

1. **Set up the frame.** Put it together on level ground and anchor it firmly before attaching anything. Leave enough clearance for people to walk underneath without catching the flowers or greenery.
2. **Get the stems ready.** Cut the stem ends and remove any leaves that would be underwater. Keep flowers and foliage in clean buckets as you work, in a cool place away from direct sunlight.

3. **Attach the greenery.** Fasten small bunches to the frame with ties or wire. Begin at the bottom of each decorated area, overlapping bunches to hide stems and fasteners. Spread the weight across the frame instead of piling it onto one side.
4. **Add the biggest blooms.** Fill water tubes and place the flower stems inside, then fasten each tube securely to the frame. Arrange the main blooms along the top or one side to match your plan. Turn some flowers in different directions to give the arrangement more depth.
5. **Fill open spaces.** Tuck smaller flowers and extra foliage around the larger blooms. Step back regularly and view the arch from the front and both sides. Use leaves to disguise visible ties; there is no need to cram every gap full.
6. **Inspect the arrangement.** Test that the bundles are firmly attached and the frame is still steady. Cut away loose ends, top up water tubes if necessary, and clear fallen leaves from the floor.

Decorate the floral sections as near to the event as you reasonably can. If you need to finish the arch earlier, store the flowers somewhere cool and check their water before guests arrive.

Common questions about floral arches

What number of flowers should I buy?

The amount varies with the frame's dimensions, the size of each bloom, and the coverage you want. Draw a simple plan and estimate the stems section by section. A partly decorated arch takes fewer flowers than one covered all over.

Is floral foam necessary?

No. You can fasten foliage and water tubes straight to a suitable frame. Make sure every tube is secure and check for leaks that could leave the floor wet.

How can outdoor flowers stay fresh?

Keep the stems watered and shaded for as long as possible. Sun and wind can make flowers fade sooner, so attach them close to the event and arrange a sheltered backup spot.

Also helpful: loyal customers for a flower shop