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## Choosing the Right Stage for Your Event: A Practical Guide

When planning an event, one of the first things you'll need to decide is **what type of stage** best suits your needs. With so many options available, it can be overwhelming to choose the right one.

To help you make an informed decision, here's a breakdown of four common stage types ranked from least to most effective based on functionality, safety, performance and quality.

### Stage Types at a Glance

Inflatable Stage	★
Trailer Stage	★ ★
Truck Stage	★ ★ ★
Trussing Stage	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### Inflatable Stage

Inflatable stages are often small to large, ark-shaped structures that rely on several blowers to remain inflated throughout the event. These blowers run continuously, creating a constant humming noise that can be a distraction. The other main concern is condensation, these types of stages cause condensation to drip onto the stage area.

#### Key Considerations:

Requires continuous airflow to stay inflated.

Condensation forms on the covered area, Water drips and electrics do not mix.

Needs ballast or ground stakes for stability.

Sometimes includes an internal trussing structure to support lighting and enhance the safety aspect for performers.

Blower failure is not uncommon, posing a significant safety risk.

While quick to deploy, the compromises on safety and reliability make this a less ideal choice for most professional events.



### Trailer Stage

Trailer stages are built on medium to large trailers and towed into position. They're a popular mid-range option but come with limitations, particularly in the UK where road transport laws restrict the type of vehicle that can tow the trailers, the weight and dimensions of the trailer itself.

### Challenges:

- Cannot carry external gear like PA systems during transit.
- Must be lightweight, which reduces structural strength.
- Requires extensive anchoring (e.g., water butts, guy ropes).
- Vulnerable to wind; typically built with mesh sides to allow air flow.

Low wind loading capacity means the stage must shut down at wind speeds over 28mph. While practical for certain events, their performance and weather limitations require careful planning and trustworthy crew compliance.

### Truck Stage

Truck stages are a more robust and efficient alternative to trailers. These are often built into a lorry sized vehicle and arrive 90% pre-assembled.

### Advantages:

- Quick setup with minimal crew.
- Solid back and side panels offer good protection from the elements.
- Multiple power & Lighting outlets integrated around the stage.
- No ballast needed, as the truck's own weight (usually over 7.5 tonnes) provides stability.

This makes truck stages an excellent option for quick deployment and dependable shelter, especially in unpredictable weather.

### Trussing Stage

Trussing stages are the gold standard of professional staging. Built using metal truss systems, these stages can be custom designed to suit virtually any event size, style or vision.

#### Why It's the better option:

- Fully customizable in shape, size, and design.
- Triangle trussing is preferred for strength and durability.
- Flexible covering options for weatherproofing.
- Ground level anchoring points for superior stability.
- Integrated ventilation and wind venting for high wind tolerance.
- Lighting and rigging can be installed almost anywhere on the structure.

Although they come at a higher cost per metre and maintenance, trussing stages offer unmatched performance, safety, and adaptability, perfect for large scale or high-profile events.

### Final Thoughts

#### When selecting a stage, consider:

- Event location and ground conditions
- Weather expectations
- Size and type of performance
- Budget and logistics

There are different styles of trussing stage; the older stages are steel, the most common staging is alloy. Each stage type has its place, but knowing their pros and cons helps you avoid surprises on event day. For most professional or large scale events, a trussing stage will offer the safest, most reliable, and most impressive results.