

Exhibitor Manual

2026 Cincinnati Home and Garden Show

The Cincinnati Convention Center



February 20-22 & February 27- March 1, 2026

This Exhibitor Manual has been compiled to help you and your staff with complete details about all phases of the exhibition process at the Cincinnati Home and Garden Show.

Enclosed you will find helpful information to make your participation in our show successful.

We strongly urge that you give this manual to those having responsibility for your participation in the show.

CincinnatiHomeAndGardenShow.com

MARKETPLACE | EVENTS

SHOW MANAGEMENT

Cincinnati Home and Garden Show is produced and managed by:

Marketplace Events

2000 Auburn Drive, Suite 200 | Beachwood, OH 44122

P: 440.591.6960

Kelly Scott, Show Manager

P: 440.591.6960 | Email: kellys@mpeshows.com

Melissa Antonelli, Exhibit Sales Consultant

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Rosanna Hrabnicky, Group Manager

P: 440.591.6974 | Email: rosannah@mpeshows.com

SHOW FACILITY

Cincinnati Home and Garden Show is held at:

The Cincinnati Convention Center

525 Elm Street | Cincinnati, OH 45202

P: 513.926.7736

ADVANCE ORDER ELECTRIC DISCOUNT DEADLINE: Monday, January 26, 2026

SHOW DECORATOR

Booth Furnishings: rental of tables, chairs, booth carpeting, signs, & labor

Fern Exposition Services

645 Linn Street | Cincinnati, OH 45203

P: 1.800.774.1251 ext. 1

ADVANCE ORDER DISCOUNT DEADLINE: Monday, January 26, 2026

SHOW DATES + HOURS

Friday	February 20, 2026	10:00 AM—9:00 PM
Saturday	February 21, 2026	10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Sunday	February 22, 2026	10:00 AM—6:00 PM
Friday	February 27, 2026	10:00 AM—9:00 PM
Saturday	February 28, 2026	10:00 AM—9:00 PM
Sunday	March 1, 2026	10:00 AM—6:00 PM

ADMISSION

Adults (at the door): \$15
Adults (online only): \$13
Children Ages 12 & Under: FREE

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION + SHOW OFFICE

The **Exhibitor Registration and Show Office** will be located in the Elm Street lobby at the Hall A entrance of the Cincinnati Convention Center. Our show office will open on Tuesday, February 27th at 8:00 a.m. The Show Office will remain open during all move in and show hours.

Exhibitors can pick up exhibitor badges at Exhibitor Registration desk during move-I, and front entrance Will Call during Show hours.

EXHIBITOR BADGES ARE FOR EXHIBITORS, THEY ARE NOT TICKETS TO THE SHOW. THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT AT WILL CALL TO BE PICKED UP BY ATTENDEES OR PEOPLE WORKING IN YOUR BOOTH.

WILL CALL

Will Call will be located at the Main Entrance Box Office and Ticket area.
Please leave your tickets in INDIVIDUALLY marked envelopes with FIRST AND LAST NAME for your guests. We will have envelopes available for those that need them.

EXHIBITOR ENTRANCE

The main exhibitor entrance is located next to the Box Office in the front lobby. Exhibitors entering through the Dock B door (off of 6th street), will need to show an exhibitor badge get into the building. Any exhibitor needing more than one hour prior to opening, to work on display, must check in at the Show Office to get approval from Show Management.

MOVE IN/OUT INFORMATION + SHIPPING

Please refer to your move-in/move-out email for your specific move-in time. Keep in mind, the hours are stated for security reasons and ease of entry. ***The hours below are the general move-in hours, but please call your sales rep if you need to discuss a specific date/time.***

MOVE-IN HOURS:

Monday, February 16 th	2:00 pm – 8:00 pm – vehicles off floor by 6:00 pm
Tuesday, February 17 th	8:00 am – 8:00 pm – vehicles off floor by 6:00 pm
Wednesday, February 18 th	8:00 am – 8:00 pm – vehicles off floor by 6:00 pm
Thursday, February 19 th	8:00 am – 8:00 pm – vehicles off floor by 1:00 pm

Carts will be available for you to use when unloading your vehicles. Please make sure to return your cart once finished for other exhibitors to use.

All exhibits **MUST** to be set-up by Thursday, February 19th at 8:00 p.m. Friday you can enter to finalize your booth at 8:00 a.m.

MOVE OUT HOURS:

No exhibits may be taken down until show closing on Sunday, March 1st at 6:00 PM. Exhibits **MUST** be removed no later than Monday, March 2 at 8pm.

Sunday, March 1 st	6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Monday, March 2 nd ,	7:30 am – 8:00 pm

Please refer to your move-in/move-out email for your specific move-out time. Keep in mind, the hours are stated for security reasons and ease of exit. Carts will be available for you to use to load your vehicles.

NOTES:

PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE FIREHOUSE LOCATED ON FIFTH STREET AT CENTRAL.

ANY VEHICLES BLOCKING FIREHOUSE WILL BE TOWED IMMEDIATELY.

- All exhibits **MUST** remain in place until closing of the show, Sunday, March 1st at 6:00 p.m.
- Dock area is **NOT** for parking during your move in/move out privileges, for unloading and loading only. Must be moved quickly to get other companies in and out.

TRANSPORTING DISPLAYS

Please refer to your move-in times given by our team – there are three overhead doors off of 6th street (A,B, or C). If you need the dock entrance, you will enter overhead door B (it will be center, rear of building on your left). Our team will be onsite along with building security to assist with move-in. After unloading, **VEHICLE MUST BE REMOVED FROM DOCK AREA IMMEDIATELY.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Fern Exposition Service hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If a forklift or any other special attention is needed, please plan your move-in and move-out schedules in advance. Forklift arrangements **MUST** be made in advance.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Shipments to arrive **PRIOR** to Wednesday, February 18th should be sent **PREPAID** to the following address:

TO: (Exhibit Name)
c/o Fern Exposition Services
645 Linn Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203

FOR: Cincinnati Home and Garden Show

Booth # _____

Shipments to arrive **ON** or **AFTER** Wednesday, February 18th should be sent **PREPAID** to the following:

TO: (Exhibit Name)
Cincinnati Convention Center c/o Fern Exposition Services
525 Elm Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203

FOR: Cincinnati Home and Garden Show

Booth # _____

PLEASE MAKE SURE BOOTH NUMBER IS ON ALL BOXES, CRATES, ETC.

HANDLING

For shipments consigned to the Cincinnati Convention Center or reaching the dock by your transportation will be accepted on or after Wednesday, February 18th. Any items shipped via U.P.S., overnight carrier or common carrier is subject to drayage charges. The Show Decorator is also available for freight handling. Contact their office if you would like them to handle your drayage. (Fern Exposition Services, 800.774.1251 ext. 1).

EXHIBITS ARRIVING PRIOR to Wednesday, February 18th will automatically be sent to the George Fern Company and **WILL BE CHARGED** for shipping and handling.

BOOTH GUIDELINES

Please note this is a HARD WALL show - You must have an 8' high solid back wall extending the entire width of your display. Drape does not qualify as a solid wall (excluding Marketplace exhibitors). Side walls are not required, but if you choose side walls, the 8' high partition or wing may only come out 5' from the back wall and MUST be finished. A 3' high partition may come out the full 10' from the back wall and must be finished on the back side. If exhibitors are not in compliance or impede on neighbors, they will be required to change booth display prior to the show opening.

Fern Expositions will be onsite if you need to order a hard wall backdrop.

If your display includes a sign attached to the back wall, you must get approval from show management and the following rules apply:

- TOTAL HEIGHT OF SIGN MUST NOT EXCEED 2 FEET FROM TOP OF HARDWALL
- Sign must be single sided, professionally finished on the back side and no PVC pipe allowed.

FLOORING

Flooring is not included in the cost of your exhibit booth. **It is mandatory that all exhibit booths are carpeted or have some type of clean, professional-looking floor covering that covers 100% of the booth's square footage.** Carpeting, Astroturf, hardwood, tile, vinyl flooring etc., may be used.

Protective material must be placed on the floor before laying bricks, patios, mulch, etc. Do not drill holes, nail glue or affix flooring to the Cincinnati Convention Center flooring. **Any damage (including unremoved tape) to the Duke Energy Convention Center flooring will be repaired at the exhibitor's expense.**

TABLE COVERINGS

It is asked that all tables are properly skirted. If your table is decorative, there is no need to cover. Skirting should go from the edge of the table to the floor on all VISIBLE sides. All skirting should be professional and neat. **Use of plastic tablecloths, sheets, shower curtains or any type of "makeshift" tablecloths is not permitted.**

All inventory and personal items must be stored COMPLETELY OUT OF SIGHT. Your booth should look professional and inviting to the attendee.



Staffing Your Booth

All exhibitors are expected to be in their booths during all published show hours, as we do receive consumer complaints about un-manned displays. Our visitors pay an entrance fee and expect to be able to do business with our exhibitors at any time during show hours. If you are in violation of this rule, your company may not be permitted to exhibit with us in the future.

Demonstrations and Handouts

Exhibitors demonstrating products and/or distributing marketing materials, product samples or souvenirs are not permitted to do so outside the confines of their rented exhibit area. Working in the aisle is strictly prohibited and will be enforced by show management.

SERVICE ORDER FORMS

A complete service package will be sent to the Exhibitor by the Official Decorator, Fern Exposition Services, approximately four to six weeks prior to the Show. All building service forms (i.e., electric, sample food form, etc.) can be found at <https://www.cincinnatihomeandgardenshow.com/exhibitor-kit>.

ADVANCE ORDER ELECTRIC DISCOUNT DEADLINE: Monday, January 26th

FERN SERVICES DISCOUNT DEADLINE: Monday, January 26th

EXHIBITOR BADGES

Exhibitor badges are required to identify yourself as an authorized exhibitor. Exhibitors will not be allowed access during show days without a badge. *Exhibitor badges are not required during move-in.*

Exhibitor Badges provided are determined by booth size:

5 exhibitor badges for booths up to 399 sq. ft.

10 exhibitor badges for booths 400 - 799 sq. ft.

15 exhibitor badges for booths 800 sq. ft. and up

5 exhibitor badges for booths located in the Marketplace

EXHIBITOR BADGES MAY NOT BE USED AS ADMISSION TICKETS AND CANNOT BE LEFT AT WILL CALL.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

You will receive your digital complimentary tickets a few weeks before the show.

10 tickets for 100-299 sq. ft
15 tickets for 300-599 sq. ft
20 tickets for 600+ sq. ft
5 tickets for Marketplace vendors

If you need additional tickets, or have any questions Please contact Kelsey Christopher at kelseyc@mpeshows.com or 440-591-6963.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SHOW

VENDORS LICENSE

The state of Ohio requires a valid State of Ohio vendor's license on hand for selling at the Show. Forms are available at the Ohio Department of Taxation. Please refer to their website

http://www.tax.ohio.gov/divisions/sales_and_use/license.stm

It is REQUIRED that sales receipts must be furnished to all persons purchasing items at the show.

FOOD VENDORS

There are very specific rules pertaining to the selling and/or sampling of food and beverage. Please contact your Sales Rep for approval, fees, and further details.

SECURITY

Show Management and the venue provide security for the show floor during move-in, move-out, show hours and overnight. **However, neither Show Management nor the Cincinnati Convention Center are responsible for lost, damaged or stolen articles.** We encourage you to take all valuables with you when the show closes each evening. A tarp/sheet covering your booth after show hours goes a long way in securing your belongings.

Report anything of a suspicious nature to Show Management and/or Security. Leads can be followed up to avoid incidents of theft.

Ensure you are adequately insured. Each company should have Insurance Coverage.

FIRE/EMERGENCY PLAN

- 1) An announcement will be made by security in the event of a fire emergency.
- 2) In the event an emergency announcement is made, you and your staff are to proceed and exit through the nearest fire exit.
- 3) If at all possible, encourage everyone exiting to do so in a calm and orderly fashion.
Do not exit the building via elevators. Use emergency exit steps which are well-marked on upper levels of the Cincinnati Convention Center.
- 4) Once the emergency is over, Exhibitors will be re-admitted prior to the public

FIRE PREVENTION CODE

ALL materials used for decorations **MUST BE FLAME RESISTANT**, capable of meeting a **MATCH FLAME TEST**. No **HAZARDOUS** equipment or material is permitted in the exhibit area without written approval from the Fire Prevention Bureau. (Includes open flame, hot coals, toxic liquid or gasses, flammable chemicals, liquid, solid or gas, LP cylinder, etc.) **ALL COMBUSTIBLES** (cartons, crates, packing materials, etc.) **MUST BE REMOVED** from exhibit area. Storage will be provided. For special approval form or information, contact the Cincinnati Fire Prevention Bureau at 513.352.2301.

Exhibitors who bring anything flammable as part of their exhibit (drapery, table skirting, artificial plants, etc.) should make sure that each item has been recently fireproofed. There are various solutions on the market that are acceptable; retailers such as Amazon and Home Depot sell this fire-resistant spray. Be advised the fire marshal does check all exhibits prior to our Show opening.

- Vehicles displayed at your exhibit must have a ¼ of tank of gas or less, batteries must be disconnected
- Show Team will coordinate Fire Marshal to inspect vehicle – you must let show team know about vehicle display ahead of time.
- Use of portable tanked gas is prohibited

FIRST AID STATION

The First Aid Station is located off the main lobby (street level) near the Fifth & Elm Streets entrance. An EMT is on duty during Show hours.

HANGING SIGNS

Exhibitors with 400 square feet (or larger) peninsulas OR island booths may hang banners in the center of their space 20 feet from floor to the bottom of the banner (there is a fee for banner hanging and removal). **NO BANNERS MAY BE HUNG ABOVE EXHIBIT SPACE LESS THAN 400 SQUARE FEET WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM SHOW MANAGEMENT.**

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

ALL exhibitors **MUST** furnish public liability insurance. Affidavits or other evidence of coverage must be sent to Marketplace Events. This is an important safeguard for your company while exhibiting at a public show. This insurance does not cover exhibitors' property, which is placed on display at the exhibitor's risk. Every reasonable precaution will be taken to protect exhibitors' properties but Show Management nor The Duke Convention Center assume responsibility for any losses due to fire, theft, robbery, damage, accident, or other causes. Please refer to items #4 and 5 on your exhibitor contract/application or contact Show Management if you have questions.

LIQUOR CONTROL POLICY

ALL agents, employees, guests or exhibitors are prohibited from selling, giving away or bringing upon the premises, any intoxicating liquor, liquids or compounds. (Sec. 4301.62) This section does not apply to liquor lawfully purchased through the liquor license holder of the building (concessionaire).

PUBLICITY + PROMOTION

Publicity starts with interesting and newsworthy releases and captioned photos. Alert us now of plans involving unique or exclusive products, history of invention or development of your product or a visiting VIP or celebrity. Highlight your participation in your TV, radio, newspaper, advertising, general mailings, newsletters or fliers. Treat it with the excitement it deserves!

RAFFLE REGULATIONS

Ohio law prohibits the sale of raffle tickets or the conducting of raffles by any company, corporation, non-profit organization or any other entity in a facility which holds a liquor license. The Cincinnati Convention Center holds such a license, thus prohibiting this type of activity.

USE OF SPACE REGULATIONS

All sales, taking of orders for future delivery, conferences, lectures, displays and distribution of literature will be in a dignified manner consistent with the overall theme of the Show within the confines of leased space. No noise making devices, public address systems and/or sound systems of any type shall be allowed without specific prior written approval of Show Management. All exhibits must have attendants during the Show hours unless other arrangements are made with Show Management. All rubbish must be moved into the aisles at the end of each day of the Show. No helium filled balloons or placement of stickers on persons or Center grounds will be permitted.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati

151 W. Fifth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
P: 513.579.1234

Book Your Group Rate for the Cincinnati Home + Garden Show

**Book by January 14, 2026*

ATM INFORMATION

An automatic teller machine will be located on the first floor of the Cincinnati Convention Center in the Elm Street lobby.

DIRECTIONS



Exiting 75 from South Bound:
Exit 7th St. Exit

Straight on 7th St. from Exit Ramp
Right turn on Race St.
Right turn on 6th St.

ALTERNATE ROUTE:

Exiting 75 from South Bound:
Exit 57th St. Exit

**** (This exit will be on your left)**

Straight on 5th St.
Left turn on Central Ave.
Right turn on 7th St.
Right turn on Race St.
Right turn on 6th St.



Exiting 75 from North Bound:
5th St. Exit

Straight on 5th St.
Right turn Plum St.
Right turn on 4th St.
Right turn on Central Ave.
follow green arrows now
Straight on Central Ave.
Right turn on 7th St.
Right turn on Race St.
Right turn on 6th St.

