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Pipe and Drape Systems – Demystifying Exhibit Booths



“Exhibit Booths” are the booths you see at trade shows and convention vendor floors. The elements that are used to make up exhibit booths are referred to as “Pipe and Base” or “[Pipe and Drape Systems](#).”

Often the booths are connected in a side by side and/or back to back configuration – a common configuration is to have a series of booths with 8’ back walls and 3’ side walls (You can see examples of these types of configurations on the “[Wholesale Pipe and Drape Packages](#)” page of SewWhatInc.com).

In many cases, the standard exhibit booths are provided by the show organizer or venue – but booth holders often personalize them with their own drapery panels – or even bring their own hardware as well as drapery.

Pipe and Drape Systems: Hardware and Panels

Pipe and Drape hardware includes commonly uprights, bases, and drape supports. Sew What? Inc. distributes a “slip-fit” system of hardware. This means that the bottom of the upright slips right into the center of the base – no screws are required. Uprights have slots in two areas – at the top and at about 3’ from the bottom. The final piece of hardware is the drape support (also known as the crossbar). This is the “pole” that the drapes hang from. These drape supports have “hooks” on each end which fit into the slots on the uprights.

Drapery panels are usually made with an open rod pocket at the top – the drape support slides through the pocket (similar to a home window drape sheer). The most affordable option is to purchase single-width panels that are unpleated and use extra panels pushed together to give a natural pleated appearance. For example, for a 10 foot wide back wall, we would recommend 4 drapes at 4’ wide each (or a total of 16’ in drapery width).

“Pipe and Drape” system are truly a “do-it-yourself” option. A single stand-alone booth with an 8’ back wall, two 3’ side walls, and an open front requires only a few components and can be put up by a couple of people in 15 minutes. (See how to [setup pipe and drape in this video](#).) A complete booth package generally gives the customer everything needed for a 10’ x 10’ booth - bases, uprights, telescopic drape supports, drapes, along with carry/storage bags for everything.



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Custom Drapes and Digital Printing Services



Another option that can personalize a exhibit booth is to purchase custom drapes. Selection of a different fabric, a different color, have an image digitally printed on the drapes, or even do something fun like the two-toned angled drapes. If you really want to stand out from other exhibitors, digital printing services can easily add branding/ logos or other unique touches for [custom drapery panels](#).

We see the large corporations spend a huge amount of money having custom exhibit booths designed and built for them – and many of them really are amazing. But for the rest of us, pipe and drape is a great option for an exhibit booths that is both affordable and easily customizable.

About Sew What? Inc.

Sew What? Inc., located in Rancho Dominguez, California, is a well-known stage and theatrical drapery manufacturer known for its dramatic theatrical drapes and fabrics used in major rock concerts, top fashion shows and other artistic staged venues. For information, contact Sew What? Inc. at (310) 639-6000, or email inquiries@sewwhatinc.com.

About Rent What? Inc.

Rent What? Inc. is committed to providing an ultimate experience in drapery rental products and customer service. The company is widely regarded for its basic pricing schedules, innovative damage waiver policy and fast and friendly service. For information, contact Rent What? Inc. at (310) 639-6000 or visit www.rentwhatinc.com.