7 Things To Avoid In A Band Name From Music Industry How To

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Hi there, Shaun Letang from Music Industry How To here. Today I'm going to let you know a few things you should NEVER do when deciding on a band name. Avoid these to save you money, time, bad publicity and a lot of headache. You can get more great guides and resources like this (but more detailed) by signing up to the [Music Industry How To newsletter](). So do that now. :)

So, NEVER do these things:

1. Use A Genetic Name.

This is a big one which some don't thing about: never pick a name with a second meaning that's very common! For example, 'Rain Fall' or 'Passive Smoking'. Why? Because people will never be able to find you online!! When people search either of the above, what do you think they'll find? That's right, information on those topics. Not your music. This will lead to lost fans. So keep your names more original and random.

2. Use Swear Words In Your Name.

While it may sound cool to some, avoid using swear words or obscene terms in your band name. This is because it'll greatly decrease the amount of press who will cover you and feature your band. Yes it might have some people thinking you're cool and follow you because of it, but it'll seriously limit how big you can get overall.

3. Use An Already Taken Name.

When you have a band name you like, the first thing you should do is check is anyone else already has it. A quick Google search in the following format should show if there are any:
"Chosen Band Name"
Important: Make sure you include the **""**s around the name which makes Google search that exact name.

4. Pick A Name But Not Sleep On It.

When you find a name you like, be sure to sleep on it a couple of nights. I've personally come up with names for things before then gone out and bought the domain name (website name), signed up all the social sites and more. Then slept on it and decided not to use the name anymore. This lead to lost time and money,

so sleep on it before you confirm anything.

5. Pick A Name Only Some Of The Band Are Happy With.

As a band, you all have to be happy with the name. If there are members who aren't, this will lead to arguments and the feeling of not being 100% comfortable in the group. So make sure you're all happy with the choice.

6. Pick A Name You'll Grow Out Of.

This is a mistake I often see. While it can be difficult to determine, try and pick a name that will still be good to use in future. Don't use words like 'teen' and area names for example; in the first case you won't be a teen forever, and in the second you might move areas.

7. Pick A Name Which Will Bring Bad Press.

And lastly, don't pick a name that 'starts a fight'. Picking a name relating to socially sensitive issues or insulting someone (or something) is in really bad taste. While being controversial can help, this type isn't good. Yes it may get you some press, but the saying "all press is good press" doesn't really apply to this situation.

So there you go, 7 things to avoid when picking a band name. You can see more advice for musicians like this over at Music Industry How To. You should:

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