

ARE YOU REGISTERED?



Registering for your wedding can be a great way to stock up on everything you need to begin your married life, as well as help guide your guests to items you would most enjoy receiving.

However, a registration list can also be stressful to create. What do you need the most? How much do you need? Where do you register? Here are some of the most important things to remember as you navigate through the process:

Do set up your registries early and check them often. As soon as you announce your nuptials, you will have guests who want to know where you are registered. To avoid receiving unwanted items, register as soon as possible. You will also want to check your registries often to make sure that as guests purchase items, there are still gifts at a variety of price points from which others can choose.

Do register at more than one place. This is important for several reasons. First, guests may prefer one retailer to another. Perhaps they don't

like to shop online and certain shops are easier for them to visit.

Registering at multiple locations also allows you and your significant other to pick out a variety of items. Choose retailers that you and your spouse enjoy shopping at frequently. Many vendors have registry programs that allow couples to purchase items left on their registries at a discounted price after their wedding date has passed.

Don't overlook the everyday items. Even if you already have a house or apartment, or you and your spouse are living together and you think you have everything you need.

There are items that you will never stop needing, or not want multiples of. Already have a toaster, pots and pans, and flatware? Use this opportunity to upgrade your bath towels, or register for another set of bed sheets in a fun print and high thread count.

Don't request cash. It is always going to be tacky to outright request a dollar amount from your guests. If you and your spouse are trying to save for a big-ticket item, such as a house or your

honeymoon, set up a registry account.

This allows guests to feel like they are contributing to your future, instead of handing over an impersonal check or gift card. Also expect that some guests will want to give you a tangible gift no matter what.

Do it together. Creating a wedding registry is not only a time for you and your spouse to bond but to mesh your styles into one. Discussing patterns and color preferences now will make putting it all away and using it more enjoyable later.

Do write prompt and personalized thank you notes. There is no exception. You must thank every person who gives you a gift. Customize each thank you card by mentioning the gift and how you plan to enjoy it. "Thank you so much for the salad bowl, Aunt Wilma. I can't wait to use it at our first dinner party!"

This will show that you were thinking of that guest, and her thank you card isn't a carbon copy of another.

— Green Shoot Media