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## 8 Questions Brides Ask About Setting up a Wedding Registry

By Blake Kritzberg

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In theory, setting up a registry is simple. You decide on one or several stores, create a registry online or in person, select various items, and get the word out to your guests. In practice, things are a little more complicated — but only a little!

With that said, here's the real deal on setting up your wedding registry and getting the word out without offending your guests. Remember that retailers can be an enormous help to both you and your guests. At the same time, you can't take everything they say at face value.

Q: Where should I register?

A: Chances are, if you're getting married in your own town, you already know where "everyone goes" to set up and shop from a registry. If not, and guests are flying in from far away, pick from some bride-tested standbys likely to be present almost anywhere. Macy's has a great reputation for registries, as does Williams-Sonoma, Bed Bath & Beyond and other retailers.

Before you choose your stores, be sure to stop by a wedding forum and get feedback from brides who have been there, done that. Store policies vary quite dramatically, ranging from the easy-does-it (who'll give you cash back for returns off the registry, no questions asked) to the extremely restrictive (who'll only let you exchange for another item \*in that department\*, requires a receipt for each item, and so on). You'll want to know about these policies and the store's overall reputation for bridal friendliness before you go in, or returns and exchanges could become a big hassle.

Q: I have a wide range of interests. How many stores should I register at?

A: Two to three stores is fairly typical. They don't have to be typical stores, though. If you're a wine drinker, and live in a state where it's legal to ship wine, set up a registry at one of the great online wine merchants.

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Q: When should I register?

A: Although close family members may pressure you to start earlier, it's helpful to wait three to six months before the wedding. Not only are the vast majority of gifts bought within a day or so of the shower or ceremony itself, stores turn over merchandise so rapidly that any gifts you select earlier may be discontinued.

Q: What if I already have all the kitchen appliances and throw pillows I need?

A: Consider putting together a honeymoon registry instead, so guests can contribute toward a special meal or snorkeling trip or a night's lodging during your honeymoon.

Q: When I signed up at Store X, they gave me a bunch of attractive registry cards to enclose with my wedding invitations. Should I do it, or is that tacky?

A: Sorry, but the consensus is almost universal — it's uncouth to include any mention of gifts in your invitations. You can, however, tuck those cards into shower invitations. Perhaps the best solution is to include a note in your invitations that reads, "Please see our wedding web site at [www.xyz.com](http://www.xyz.com)" and place your registry information there.

Q: How many gifts should I register for? I don't want to look demanding.

A: Typically, you'll want to select two or three items per guest. That gives people room to choose instead of locking them into something they don't enjoy buying, or worse, forcing them to guess what else you might like, giving birth to the "second yogurt maker" type of gift.

If you have many guests, you can avoid creating a 16–page monstrosity for them to print out by breaking up your registry over several stores.

At the end of the day, "more is more." Many retailers offer discounts on those items you registered for but didn't receive. Many stores also retain your registry for at least 12 months after the wedding. You may find it's best to register for everything that you plan to buy, even if you don't expect to get it as a gift; you can then purchase your selections for 10% or 20% off after the ceremony. Many brides also find friends and family tapping registries for gift buying ideas for birthdays and other holidays!

Q: What price range should I stick with when selecting items?

A: Generally, you should register for things you really feel you want or need, without worrying too much about the price. Some guests enjoy picking up a number of items in the low price range, and sometimes guests will group together to purchase bigger–ticket items.

Q: I've set up my registry just fine, but now I'm addicted to checking it. How can I stop?

A: Sorry, there's no known antidote for registry–checking addiction, though it's a widespread

phenomenon. Counting to ten, taking deep breaths or distracting yourself with double-fudge ice cream might be worth a shot.

Blake Kritzberg is editor at "

" Stop by for wedding favor ideas, Save-the-Date eCards,

free wedding screensaver, free wedding templates and Bridezilla's weekly adventures at:

### **Give Your Wedding Favours The Personal Touch**

**By Emily Tanner**

One wedding seems to blend into another and looking for alternative ideas can be a struggle. Here are some great tips for making your wedding favours as unique as you are!

Ensure your wedding favours are unique wedding favours, encompassing everything you and your partner are about. Rather than going for traditional boxes or nets, why not design your own cookie wedding favour? A personalised wedding favour is so much more memorable for the guests who attend your big day. Many brides are now purchasing personalised ribbon for wedding favours. This way, brides can choose from a wide selection of favour boxes and organza bags and turn them into a personalised wedding favour by adding personalised ribbon.

Most couples choose to have their names and wedding dates printed on personalised ribbon for favour boxes, although some brides do have the guests names also printed on ribbon – a great idea for a place setting too.

Another way of providing guests with a personalised wedding favour is by attaching a tag. This personalised wedding favour tag may state the names of the bride and groom along with their wedding date or the wedding venue name or a short message from the happy couple to the guests.

A unique wedding favour such as this is well received by the guests and once the contents have been consumed, there is something left to have as a keepsake. In essence, all brides try to offer unique wedding favours to their guests but there is nothing worse than receiving a gift similar to one you have previously received at a wedding. Bear this in mind when you are deciding which wedding favours to offer your guests at your wedding because people do remember a unique wedding favour or a personalised wedding favour more than one which is non specific and seemingly not very well thought out.

Of course, not all unique wedding favours are edible. There are many gifts that can be given to wedding guests that are inedible such as wedding favour coasters, photo album favours, picture frame wedding favours and candle wedding favours. These are just as easy to present as personalised wedding favours, again with the addition of personalised ribbon or a personalised tag. Your guests may

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well be equally impressed with your innovative and novel ideas as you provide them with a quality alternative to edible wedding favours.

Instead of spending out on wedding favours, some brides choose to offer guests a piece of wedding cake beautifully presented in a personalised wedding favour box or a pretty organza bag. For brides who choose to give their guests some cake in a bag, they can attach a personalised wedding favour tag or tie the top with personalised ribbon. Either way, it is a lovely way of being a bit different and really offering your guests a unique wedding favour exclusive to you.

This article is brought to you by Emily Tanner – She recommends more advice and quality wedding favours and bomboniere at

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