

Bridal Registries and Today's Encore Bride

by Meredith Perrell Beddow

💖 It it tacky for me to register AGAIN, since I'm inviting the same family and friends who were at my previous wedding?

💖 All we need are big-ticket luxury items. Can we register just these or should we include lower-priced items, too?

Whether it's your first or second time as Bride or Groom, registering for gifts can make good sense for you as well as your guests.

WHY and WHY NOT?

Of course your guests expect to bring a gift to celebrate an encore wedding. But even your closest friends and family are not mind-readers, so they will appreciate knowing what you want.

Rest assured that just as today's relaxed social etiquette smiles upon a second, third or even fourth-time bride who wears white at her wedding, Emily Post cites no etiquette violation when encore couples use a gift registry.

Not convinced? Be forewarned: If you decide to NOT register and you receive several sets of matching porcelain Elvis and Priscilla wedding figurines (or who knows what else), you have no one to blame but yourself!

Bottom line: Trust your own intuition as a couple and do what feels right for your situation.

TEN TOP REASONS TO REGISTER

- 💖 Yes, a bridal gift registry is in perfectly good taste for encore couples (as per Emily Post et al).
- 💖 Stores keep detailed records of your registry purchasers, so you can track the givers even if gifts arrive without cards (this does happen).
- 💖 Registries make selecting and shipping gifts easy for friends and family.
- 💖 Registries enable you to offer guests a wide range of choices and prices, allowing each guest to select a gift at their own comfortable spending level. Classic items that make lovely gifts without costing a lot include wine glasses and nice picture frames. Be sure to include the staple items you know will need replacements for over the years.
- 💖 Some stores will discount the remaining registry merchandise after the wedding day, encouraging you to complete registry purchases (not already bought by guests) with your own funds after the event.

💖 Registering is a fun, bonding experience for the encore couple.

💖 A registry lessens the risk of having to return duplicate or "not-my-taste" gifts.

💖 If you are not sure if you should start a gift registry because you are already packed to the gills with all the "standard" household items you need or want, consider a specialized registry. Investigate registering with a local or national specialty store, or with a retailer that carries non-traditional gifts. For example, specialty stores such as William & Sonoma offer unique as well as practical gifts for the culinary enthusiast.

💖 Large home-improvement and retail chains, such as Target, offer many options for garden, interior design, camping and sporting goods.

💖 Stores that offer Internet access to gift registries are an excellent choice for guests looking to save time and trips to the store.

MORE GIFT-RELATED TIPS

- 💖 Perhaps you are so financially well-established that you can afford to buy your own entire gift registry three times over. If you are such a couple and do not want some or all of your guests to feel obligated to buy a gift for your encore wedding, express this request by telephone or in a gracious, hand-written note.
- 💖 Never should there be any mention of gift-giving preferences on your invitation!
- 💖 Although tempting, do NOT print the store names where you are registered on the invitation
- 💖 Equally tempting is to indicate that you prefer a monetary gift because you are restoring your dream house. *Don't go there!*

Remember, wedding guests expect to give a gift. A gift registry saves time and angst for the encore couple and guests alike, and underscores the same air of excitement and the expectation of a wonderful new life together.

To register or not to register? We say YES!

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