


# WEDDING REGISTRIES 411

Courtesy of Wedding Guide of Alaska

"Creating a wedding gift registry together is a full day's activity," says Sarah Harper a wedding consultant for JcPenney, "It's nice to think about it ahead of time before you go into the store, because it can be fun, but it can be overwhelming."

Here are some wedding gift registry dos and don'ts to help ensure the experience is more fun than overwhelming - for you and your guests.

<b>when to register</b>	<p>When to register. Your wedding registry should be complete by the time you have your bridal shower, so that guests of your shower can use it, too. If you are not having a shower, think about completing your registry six months before your wedding date.</p>	<p>Wedding vendors you need</p>  
<b>spreading the word</b>	<p>How to spread the word. Etiquette still maintains that the best way to let your friends and family know where you are registered is by word of mouth - definitely not by slipping the information into your wedding invitation or by telling them about it before they ask.</p>	
<b>returns &amp; exchanges</b>	<p>Returns and exchanges. Study a store's return and exchange policy before creating your registry with it - some stores have stricter policies than others. Look for stores that keep your registry on file and let you work on completing it after the wedding. Some even offer discounts on the merchandise remaining on your registry.</p> <p>If you return or exchange a gift, make sure to write a thank-you note for the original gift.</p>	

Give your guests the gift of choice. Today, couples have a variety of choices when it comes to wedding registries. The traditional national department stores like Macy's, Bloomingdales and Neiman Marcus still offer great registries, but national discounters like Target and specialty stores like Williams-Sonoma have gotten into the game. Today's couples can even create a wedding registry on Amazon.com. Choose a few stores - online and offline - to give your guests, and yourself, a variety of gift options.

Make sure to also pick gifts in a variety of price ranges to match the economic range of your guests. Also realize that some guests may choose to give a gift that is not on your registry -and that can be a good thing.