

## **When to Start Your Wedding Registry**

Your wedding is one of the few moments in life when you get to ask people for the gifts you really want. If you are like many newly engaged couples, you may be wondering when to start your [wedding registry](#). Getting an early start offers a few advantages. Starting early means you can take time to research your options and think about what you will need, both now and in the future.

### **Get an Early Start**

Wedding experts generally recommend creating a wedding registry at least four to six months before the big day. However, this can vary, since some couples have a longer engagement and others may plan to be engaged for a shorter time. It is important to remember that guests will not only use the registry for wedding gifts, but for engagement parties and showers, as well. For this reason, you should start soon after you become engaged, particularly if your engagement will be measured in months, rather than years.

### **Create the Registry Together**

Working on the registry together is fun and exciting for most couples. Even men with little interest in selecting flowers, invitations, wedding themes, and colors often get excited when it is time to plan for the home you will share together. The process can bring you closer and imagining your new home together is exhilarating and romantic.

### **Where to Start Your Registry**

Prior to starting your wedding registry, you will need to decide where to create it. Select a store with a sufficient number of options for household basics and home décor. You will want to add plenty of items on the registry for your guests to have enough options to select a great gift. Your guests' budgets will likely vary widely. For this reason, it is a good idea to include a mix of low, medium, and high end items. This provides your guests a variety of gift options in different price ranges.

### **Furniture for Your Home**

[Furniture](#) is the biggest expense when building your new home. Family and close friends may want to contribute to this effort, so consider adding a few pieces of furniture to your registry. Include larger and smaller items to accommodate every budget and furnish your bedroom, living room, dining room, and kitchen. If your new home has a yard, you may want to select [outdoor furniture](#) as well.

### **Decorate Your New Home**

Home accessories are generally affordable gift ideas for guests on a budget. Select bedding, pillows and décor, lighting, accent rugs and [window treatments](#), and decorative accessories for tabletops to fill your registry and beautify your new home. If this is your first home, think about what you will need to decorate for the [holidays](#).

### **Stock the Kitchen**

[Kitchen supplies](#) are popular wedding and bridal shower gifts. Numerous options are available in this category in every price range. One mistake some couples make is choosing dinnerware, accessories, and

tableware exclusively for formal dining or everyday use. Include a mix of products you will use on a daily basis and a few things for special occasions to cover daily needs and entertaining guests.

### **Consider Family and Friends Near and Far**

Keep your out of town guests in mind when creating your wedding registry. It can be helpful to select a store with chains in many cities. This makes it easier for out of town family and friends to purchase engagement, shower and wedding gifts. [Pottery Barn](#) offers a variety of quality merchandise in several categories, including kitchenware, furniture, and home décor.

### **Spread the Word**

The next step is letting guests know where you are registered. Tell immediate family, members of the wedding party, and a few close friends. It is always acceptable to provide the information when asked, but it is generally not considered appropriate to add this information to the wedding invitation.

### **Update Your Registry**

Once you have started your registry, the job is not finished. It is a good idea to review and update the registry periodically and add items, particularly if you notice that the list is getting low in certain categories or price ranges. Remember that people will be giving you gifts at the engagement party, shower, at the reception, and even immediately following the wedding.