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Let Go of the Spatula: Reconsidering Wedding Registries

Written by Tim Sullivan / Published February 02, 2012 / GetRichSlowly.org

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This post is from staff writer Tim Sullivan.

My brother, my best friend, and my girlfriend's sister are all getting married in the upcoming year, so I've heard a lot about wedding registries lately...

Here are two numbers I found interesting:

- In 2010, 1.5 million engaged couples, or 88% of all couples with pending nuptials, set up a registry... According to research by the University of Denver, more than 70% of couples getting married are living together before the wedding.

Okay, so 70% of engaged couples are living together, and 88% of engaged couples are registering. According to the survey, more than 90% of registered items are bakeware and kitchen appliances.

The point I'm trying to make is that the majority of couples are living together, and I assume they have a functional household complete with everything they need.

Apparently, I'm somewhat alone in this thinking.

Things you wouldn't buy yourself

My brother brought up that he would never buy a \$500 blender, but it'd be nice to receive it as a gift. Perhaps then a registry is a collection of things you'd never buy yourself.

I'm not saying to throw caution to the wind and leave yourself open to getting a bunch of gifts that don't fit your tastes, but if you're looking for something that doesn't come from Macy's, there are other options for registries.

- The Honeymoon Registry. Okay, this one has been gaining a lot of steam in recent years. Websites like honeymoonwishes.com or honeyluna.com provide an easy way for guests to help a couple afford a honeymoon.
Big Ticket Items. My best friend and his fiancée were looking at their 500-square-foot Brooklyn apartment and couldn't bring themselves to fill it with more Stuff.
Give to Charities. I've talked to couples that want friends and family to simply attend the wedding, not worry about buying the perfect gift.
Do It All. I have to admit, I love this couple's wedding site.

Weddings truly are big business and even creative couples who try to circumvent some of the higher costs of the big day itself often fall short in their creativity for registries.

And to my brother, I love you bro, but when you move four times in the next five years, I know it's going to be me carrying that Vitamix up four flights of stairs.

What are your ideas for creative wedding registries? If you're married, what did you like about your registry process, and what would you do differently?

The original article can be found at GetRichSlowly.org: Let Go of the Spatula: Reconsidering Wedding Registries

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