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# *Bride & Groom*

Quarterly guide to the perfect wedding

May 2014 - Brought to you by Granite Quill Publishers

# Tips for making the most of your wedding registry

Few things could be more enjoyable than a day of shopping with your beloved, there's also a bit of strategy that goes into building a complete registry.

## Registry recommendations

When making registry selections, be sure you've listed a variety of items at different price points - high and low. This way, guests can purchase gifts they can afford but they also have room to exercise some creativity. According to theknot.com, you should aim to have at least twice as many items on your wish lists as attendees at your wedding.

Having two to three registries is common and completely manageable. Consider including a department store, a national chain and an online retailer. Registering for items that are available at nationwide locations and online is convenient for out-of-towners. Be sure to check store return and exchange policies in case you receive duplicate items. Some retailers offer completion programs, providing coupons or discounts to purchase remaining items on registries after the wedding.

## Kickstart your kitchen

Cooking together is a simple way to bond with your spouse and have some fun in the



process. Now is the perfect time to think about upgrading your kitchen essentials, including dinnerware, silverware, glassware, cookware, bakeware, cutlery, gadgets, storage containers and barware. Love hosting holidays and events? Opt for at least eight place settings and mix and match with complementary serving platters, bowls and serving utensils.

If you're looking for a kitchen appliance that can do the job of several, consider a high-powered blender. The Vitamix Professional Series 750 offers five pre-programmed settings, including a self-cleaning option. Other appliances that shouldn't be forgotten include a slow cooker, coffee maker, toaster or toaster oven and microwave.

## Hone in on home basics

Since you won't spend all of your time in the kitchen, the rest of the home should be included in your registry. An assortment of matching linens, such as towels, rugs and shower curtains for bathrooms, plus bedding sets with extra blankets and pillows add comfort and style to your master suite and any guest rooms. Decorative pillows, ottomans and throw rugs are nice transitional pieces to tie a room together, especially if you are blending items from each of your previous, unique spaces.

## Think outside the home

If you've already found the perfect starter home and have an outdoor area, why not register for items that will extend your living space? An outdoor grill is a perfect choice for the couple who loves to cook, and fire pits are ideal for summer get-togethers and relaxing weekends. If you enjoy al fresco dining, add a patio furniture set to your wish list. Consider other accessories such as hammocks, umbrellas and outdoor games.

Creating gift registries is a fun way to bond with your better half and make your house into a home. Use them as a tool to plan how you'll be spending your future together. (BPT)

A large photograph of a couple embracing on a golf course. The man is lifting the woman, who is holding a bouquet. They are on a green lawn with a line of trees and mountains in the background under a blue sky with clouds.

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# Tips on moving into your first home together

Moving into your first home as a couple is a fun experience. But you will also face challenges like combining your household belongings and determining where you want everything placed. Handling these negotiations well can start your life together on the right foot.

Your first home may just be a starter home, or it may be the place you raise your family. Once you've found the perfect location with good schools and neighbors, it's time to plan your move.

Many newlyweds face the chore of merging furniture, kitchen equipment and closet space from two households. To start your moving process, consider eliminating duplicate items and having a garage sale, or donating the belongings you don't need, before beginning the packing process. It's a great chance to upgrade household furnishings - especially if you received something new as a wedding gift.

Then determine what size moving truck you'll need. A good rule is to plan for 150 cubic feet of space for every fully furnished room. Many young couples moving from a small apartment or condo into a larger first home will find a 12- or 16-foot Penske rental truck more than adequate. Plan to reserve your truck at



least two weeks in advance. Penske Truck Rental offers rental discounts for AAA members to help young couples with savings.

For help in making moving day go smoothly, use these tips from Penske. They've been in the do-it-yourself moving business for more than 40 years:

♥ **Start early and group items together**

- Get good, sturdy boxes of various sizes, and then fill them with items of a similar content. Some traditional ways to group items are by

item type (i.e. photo frames) or by contents of a room. Label each box with the room name, and the contents. Make sure you have plenty of packing bubbles or towels and cloths on hand to keep breakable items from being damaged in the move.

♥ **Still unpacking your wedding gifts?**

- If space isn't a concern, keep those wedding gifts in their original boxes, because the store packaging will help protect the items. But if space is tight in the rental truck, throw away the store packaging and carefully repack in your moving boxes - with plenty of padding to protect your new gifts.

♥ **Save your muscles**

- Ask friends to help you with carrying boxes. If something is heavy, enlist some help to prevent injury or strain on your muscles.

♥ **Loading the truck**

- Load the largest items (i.e. bed, couch, dresser) into the truck first to ensure they will fit, and then start loading the heaviest boxes on the bottom and lighter boxes on top. Having each box labeled with contents will help prevent you and your friends from packing heavy books on top of your new fine china wedding gifts. Penske features an online Truck Wizard application to assist. (BPT)

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## Local JP receives couples choice award

HILLSBOROUGH, NH – WeddingWire, the nation's leading online wedding marketplace, has named Ann Poole of Splendid Ceremonies as a winner of the prestigious WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards™ 2014.

The annual awards program recognizes the top five percent of wedding professionals in the WeddingWire Network of over 200,000 wedding professionals who demonstrate excellence in quality, service, responsiveness, and professionalism.

Unlike other awards in the wedding industry, the WeddingWire Couples' Choice Award™ is

solely based on recent reviews from newlyweds and their experiences working with their wedding professionals. For engaged couples, the award symbolizes legitimacy, reliability, and a proven track record of success.

"I'm thrilled to receive this award in recognition of my work as a Justice of the Peace," said Poole. "I especially want to thank my past clients for taking the time to submit a review. I truly appreciate the positive feedback that helped me earn this award." For more information about Poole and her services, visit SplendidCeremonies.com.

## 3 invitation styles guaranteed to 'wow' guests

The perfect wedding invitation doesn't just excite guests about your event, it leaves them guessing at the themes, colors and other surprises that await them on your big day.

### ♥ 1. Burlap wedding invitations

Whether you adore all things natural or love to live the country life, burlap is big when it comes to wedding invitations. A burlap background with elegant or bold printing takes rustic style to new heights. Burlap is perfect for a Western, vintage or nature-inspired wedding themes.

### ♥ 2. Lace wedding invitations

If your goal is sheer elegance, nothing makes clearer statement than a lace wedding invitation.

Try adding a delicate lace border to your invitation, or boldly place a lace applique surrounding both of your names. Delicate scrolling fonts are a perfect pairing to lace invitations, conveying a tone of grace, style and sophistication.

### ♥ 3. Art deco wedding invitations

With the recent release of the new "Great Gatsby" movie, America is falling in love with art deco styles all over again. If you gravitate toward strong colors, geometric shapes and bold lines, an art deco wedding invitation might be ideal for you. Look for invitations featuring clean lines, sharp shapes and visually stunning patterns. (BPT)

*Paul Howe photographs weddings by blending a photojournalism style with the more traditional formal photographs to capture the individual personality of each wedding.*

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# Affordable yet elegant wedding themes

Certain themes speak of romance and elegance, but can easily fit into a leaner budget. As you're planning your budget-friendly wedding, consider one of these themes:

♥ **Destination** - Who wouldn't love to say their vows on a tropical beach or on the lawn of an Irish castle? If going to the actual destination is beyond your budget, look for ways to recreate that location's ambiance closer to home. Live near the shore? Potted palms, combed sand, an arch, bouquets of tropical-hued flowers and flickering torches can turn any beach into a tropical experience. Recreate the Irish countryside in a local park or your parents' backyard with wildflower arrangements and decor in hues of emerald and cream. Whatever your special theme, you can set the tone for your wedding by choosing destination wedding invitations that evoke the spirit of your destination.

♥ **Rustic** - Even the truest love can sometimes be complicated, which may explain the appeal of a simple rustic wedding theme. On your big day, everything should feel easy and natural, and a wedding of simple decor and natural themes can accomplish that.

The outdoors make a perfect setting for rustic weddings, allowing you to use nature's beauty as



wedding decor. You can also bring the outdoors inside, decorating a banquet hall with natural touches. Replace pricy centerpieces with artfully arranged branches accented with sprays of wildflowers or traditionally rustic fruits such as apples, pears and peaches.

♥ **Vintage** - Your mother's beautiful, well-preserved wedding gown may be more than a money-saver - it can be the perfect centerpiece

for a vintage wedding theme. One of the best things about a vintage theme is that it can pay homage to virtually any decade. A sparkly flapper-girl gown, pink and black table linens and some art deco accessories can recreate the roaring '20s. Salute the '50s with kitten heels and a full tulle skirt for you, and a skinny tie for your bridegroom. Depending on what decade you choose, you can find great decoration pieces and even bridal favors at second-hand shops and vintage stores.

♥ **Garden** - Outdoor weddings are wonderful for spring and fall, but you can recreate a garden atmosphere at any time of year, indoors or out. If you'll be saying your "I do's" beneath the open sky, choose a setting with a striking, older tree and make it the backdrop for your vows. In warmer months, the tree's natural greenery will create a lush, garden atmosphere. In autumn, dress up bare branches with strands of lights or paper lanterns. Indoors or out, renting lawn chairs for guests to sit on is not only an economical option, it's a great way to underscore your garden theme. Instead of a pricey white runner or costly flowers, define the aisle with simple lanterns lit with candles. Floral wedding invitations are a versatile, beautiful way to announce your wedding's garden theme. (BPT)

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# Bridal registry trends inspire new dinnerware traditions

What are the hot trends of the season in bridal registry? For many bridal couples it is mixing something old with something new to create updated dinnerware designs. The table looks refreshed and renewed while allowing couples to enjoy treasured family heirlooms.

"After years of leaning toward casual dinnerware, we're seeing a resurgence in interest for traditional bridal china, crystal and flatware," says Replacements, Ltd. Product Marketing Manager Keith Winkler. "Not only are bridal couples buying current patterns, we're seeing them reinvent 'something old, something new' by embracing vintage china and crystal passed down through their families. In our retail store, we're showing couples how to spice up grandma's refined pattern, say from the 1920s, by mixing it with contemporary patterns to create unlimited design options."

Replacements' Visual Merchandiser John Griffith has dubbed this creative push, "pattern blending." Griffith suggests bridal couples begin with cherished, inherited china, then build their tablescape by blending additional patterns and pieces, complementary shapes and sizes, solid colors and designs, reflecting their own esthetic and lifestyle. It's a great way to go from the china you like to place settings you love.

"You can choose many different directions by blending current patterns with vintage dinnerware, from dressing up cherished older patterns for elegant formal entertaining to creating something fun and funky for a casual evening with friends," says Griffith. "Some of the more popular trends for us have been pairing pressed glass plates in coordinating or complementary colors and using porcelain or ceramic plates with metallic finishes in pewter and gunmetal. I love to mix shapes like square and round plates or different edge shapes like smooth and scalloped."

Griffith says you can add a whole new dimension to a vintage place setting by switching out a salad plate; pairing a contemporary luncheon



plate with an heirloom cup and saucer the couple already owns is great for creating brunch or a buffet setting. He also suggests blending crystal drinkware, which could be as easy as mixing colors or common characteristics such as bowl or stem shapes.

"Here's another fun example. I created my own flatware place settings by combining pieces with the monogram 'G' as the common characteristic," he says. "You could also mix patterns with floral designs on the handles or other shared similarities. Choose the design element you love and run with it."

Bridal registries are also trending back. In a new spin on tradition, Griffith says grooms are getting more involved in choosing registry selections. One of the hot items on their wish lists - barware. With the growing popularity of wine and the return to home entertaining, Griffith says couples are looking for the proper elements, such



as stems and bowls, to complement various wine varietals. And they're not limiting their barware to crystal; casual stemware, glassware and acrylics account for large percentage in the overall barware increase.

Alternative metal serveware is also trending on today's registries. Griffith defines these serving pieces as the perfect marriage of form and function. "Not only do these pieces come in fun designs - once heated, the alloy retains warmth to keep food warm longer or cooler if you chill these pieces. Alternative metal serveware is very durable and easy to clean and, with just a little care will maintain its shine for years. Some of higher quality and most popular patterns we're selling are made by Lenox, Arthur Court and Wilton Armetale."

Griffith leads design seminars on creating trendy tables at the company's retail store. Many of his insights appear on Replacements' YouTube channel and Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Replacements](http://www.facebook.com/Replacements).

One challenge bridal couples often encounter with heirloom pieces lies in the fact the name of the pattern may have been lost or forgotten through the years. Griffith suggests taking advantage of Replacements' free pattern identification service. Additional information is available on the company's website, [www.replacements.com](http://www.replacements.com). (BPT)

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# Color your world with love: Top hues for 2014 weddings

Even when it's fun, choosing a wedding color can be challenging, as you strive for a look that's both on-trend and true to your personal tastes. "Every wedding offers ample opportunities for personalization and your choice of wedding color will influence many of your other decisions, from the color of your groom's boutonniere to the appearance of your wedding invitations," says Heidi Smith, wedding expert with Invitations by Dawn. As spring bridal season approaches, Smith and the wedding consultants at Invitations by Dawn point to these hot colors for 2014:

♥ **Purple** - The color experts at Pantone have dubbed radiant orchid as their feature color for 2014, and the hue is perfect for weddings, whether you choose a deep, rich violet or a lighter shade with pink undertones. Purple speaks of love, joy and health - all qualities every bride hopes for on her wedding day. Announce your wedding color with purple wedding invitations that give guests a sneak peek at the hue you've chosen for your big day. Purple works well in virtually every aspect of your wedding - bouquets to bridesmaid dresses, favors to table linens.

♥ **Pink** - For sheer femininity and spring-like appeal, it's hard to beat the beauty of pink. A naturally nurturing and intimate color, pink imparts romance, whether you choose a bold fuchsia or



a dainty pastel. The color will be popular in 2014, and is a central, recurring theme in designer Vera Wang's 2014 bridal collection. In addition to working well for centerpieces and bouquets, pink is a great color to add to wedding attire, and more than one spring bride will walk down the aisle in pink-accented pumps this year.

♥ **Metallics** - "Great Gatsby" inspired looks have brought metallics to the fore in this year's bridal fashions. Gold, silver, bronze and coppers add both sparkle and class to a wedding, whether you choose to incorporate metallic hues in your wedding invitations or opt for bold, statement jewelry to pair with an elegant, period-inspired wedding gown. Combined with basic black or pure white, gold and silver shine with class in table linens and chair covers. Copper or bronze on foil

wedding invitations shimmer, shine and seduce.

♥ **Navy** - For a nautical flair that's both elegant and exciting, Navy makes a bold statement. The hue has been a hot color choice for winter weddings, and is sure to show up in spring nuptials this year. As a choice for groomsmen's attire, navy is classic and elegant, and pairs well with accessories in light gray, peach or pinks. It's easy to convey this tasteful color throughout the wedding, from bouquets and centerpieces to stationery and shoes.

♥ **White** - No shade is more strongly associated with weddings than white, and the color remains a top choice for bridal needs in all its variations, from cream to ecru and snowy white. As a wedding color, white speaks of purity and promise, and is the ideal shade to underscore the optimism and hope for the future that embodies every wedding. Mix shades of white to create a singular effect. For example, pair cream table linens with ivory chair covers and blush-hued roses for a stunning, inspirational table. White wedding invitations can either be subtly classic or modern and evocative when accented with a pop of color.

Modern technology has made it simple to find a wedding color that's uniquely yours and convey that shade throughout every aspect of your wedding. (BPT)

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# Beautiful Moments





# Got a great wedding theme? Tips for carrying it throughout your day

What does the concept of a wedding theme mean to you? Do you think it's just about the colors you choose for your bouquet and bridesmaid gowns? Or do you think of it as something grander - your personalized stamp that should shine through every aspect of your big day? "Even the most romantic, unique theme can fail to live up to its potential if you only incorporate it into one or two aspects of your wedding," says Robin Brockelsby, founder of Creative Coverings, one of the largest nationwide linen rental and sales companies. "Truly successful themes grace everything your guests do, see and touch throughout your wedding and reception."

As you're planning your wedding, keep these theme-building tips in mind:

♥ Choose a theme and colors that you love enough to invest some creativity in. While each season, certain colors emerge as "hot" choices for weddings, avoid picking a color or theme just because it's trendy. Instead, focus on ideas that truly speak to your personality.

♥ Picking a wedding color doesn't mean you have to be limited to just one shade. For example, Brocklesby points out, purple is a trending color for weddings this year, and you can incorporate variances of it throughout your wedding. "Lighter shades like lavender and lilac are more feminine and sensitive, creating a mood of romance," she says. "They're a great choice for bridesmaids' gowns." Add interest to the color theme by using darker shades like plum or deep purples for table linens and even lighting elements.

♥ If you do choose a trending color, consider renting accessories such as linens, chair covers and decorations. Rental stores keep track of what's trendy, too, and are more likely to have items in the season's hottest colors. Visit [www.rentalhq.com](http://www.rentalhq.com) to find a rental store that carries everything you need to create a themed wedding.

♥ When choosing a theme, be sure to consider if it really works with that gown you fell in love with and simply must have. For example, a vintage theme cries out for a vintage gown and a dress that



is too contemporary will clash with the theme.

♥ Set the stage for your wedding with themed invitations. Online resources make it easy to find and customize wedding invitations to fit virtually any theme, from rustic to floral, country to contemporary.

♥ Choose linens, tableware and furniture that complement your theme. If the venue you've booked doesn't have items that are just right, look into renting them. Renting wedding items provide brides access to a wider range of items that can fulfill virtually any theme, giving you greater flexibility and choice. Plus, renting can save you money.

♥ Use creative favors to underscore your theme. For example, luggage tags in the shape of flip flops make adorable wedding favors. Or, for your outdoor wedding with a picnic theme, miniature picnic baskets filled with gourmet chocolates will remind guests of your theme long after the reception ends.

♥ Remember to make music match your theme. Classical music will complement a sophisticated, elegant wedding as you walk down the aisle, but you might want to leave the hip-hop for the reception. For a holiday wedding, traditional holiday music creates a timely and festive atmosphere that celebrates the season and your nuptials at the same time.

♥ Food and how you present it can also play into your theme. Want a circus-themed wedding? Rent a popcorn maker or cotton-candy machine and serve to guests in wax paper bags during the reception. Going for a more elegant, traditional theme? Silver chafing dishes are classic musts. All elements of your wedding should harmoniously work together. A great theme can turn any wedding into a memorable experience. (BPT)



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# What wedding invitations suit your personality best?

You have the ring sized, the day set and the venue booked - now it's time to send out invitations and make your wedding date official. The wedding invitations you select should match your wedding theme and perfectly suit your unique sense of style; after all, they give guests the very first glimpse of what they can expect from your big day. In a sea of invitation options, it can be easy to get lost. The experts at Invitations By Dawn give insight into what invitation styles best suit the different personalities of each unique bride and groom.

*For the classic couple with timeless style:*

## **Letterpress wedding invitations**

Letterpress is a printing technique that is classically chic with origins that go back centuries. The timeless styling of letterpress is achieved by transferring ink with a metal press that is applied with pressure directly to the paper. The design and wording becomes heavily imprinted on the cardstock, creating an invitation that is truly a work of art. If you adore classic style and want to give guests a high-end first impression, letterpress wedding invitations are ideal.

*For the glamorous couple who loves a little sparkle:* **Glitter wedding invitations**

If you believe there's no such thing as too



much sparkle, glitter wedding invitations might be perfect for your big day. High quality glitter wedding invitations use only premium glitter that adds a glamorous touch to any type of cardstock while conveying elegance and fine taste. Whether your wedding is styled with vintage details or has an edgy and modern vibe, glitter can be just the detail to dazzle guests as they open that special envelope.

*For the trendsetting couple with discerning taste:* **Foil wedding invitations**

Metallic accents are everywhere from cakes to dresses, so why not add them to your invitation too? One of the top trends for 2014 is foil wedding invitations. The rich visual appeal of foil wedding invitations is achieved by traditional embossing techniques that use foils to enhance script and design elements. Gold and silver

foiling are the most popular options, providing a high-end look that coordinates with any wedding style.

*For hopeless romantics who adore Old World charm:* **Vintage wedding invitations**

If you're having a vintage-themed wedding or simply prefer designs of yesteryear, vintage wedding invitations will convey Old World character and charm to your guests. Popular elements of vintage wedding invitations include damask, lace, flowers and distressed finishes. Within this trend is art deco designs that are making a big comeback with couples who love the energy of the '30s and '40s.

*For the extravagant couple with style for miles:* **Laser cut wedding invitations**

Laser cut technology allows printers to precisely cut paper into intricate patterns that wouldn't be possible by hand or through other techniques. The results are amazingly clean lines, angles and details that allow each invitation to feature extravagant designs guaranteed to impress guests upon arrival in the mail. From gorgeous filigree to complex script to delicate flowers, laser cut wedding invitations bring design to new heights - something the extravagant couple is sure to appreciate.

Visit [www.invitationsbydawn.com](http://www.invitationsbydawn.com). (BPT)



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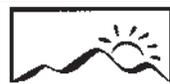
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# Tips for plus size brides when shopping for the perfect gown

The average clothing size of women in the U.S. is 14, and according to The Knot.com's 2012 Real Weddings Study, the average bride spends approximate \$1,211 on her wedding dress which amounts to a \$2.1 billion wedding dress market.

With such a lucrative business opportunity, it is no wonder that designers have started paying closer attention to the plus-sized bride. Today's plus-size gowns are not merely replicas of their smaller-sized siblings but rather dresses designed specifically for the curvier client with close attention to her specific needs.

"There has been a shift in the overall fashion industry to include more plus-size options for the curvier body - with many retailers and designers providing better options for the plus-size client, bridal gowns was a natural progression in this trend. Additionally, television has played a major role in the bridal industry with shows such as 'Say Yes to the Dress' and 'Amsale Girls'," says Natalie Reed, academic department director for the fashion programs at The Art Institute of Indianapolis.

Numerous retailers now offer plus-size bridal gowns including one of the largest



bridal gown retailers, David's Bridals and the bridal Mecca Kleinfelds. But there are also smaller retailers who offer a larger selection for the curvier bride. Alicia Zeller, whose family owns Unique Boutique and Bridal, explains "We decided to carry a special line of bridal gowns two years ago after hearing the horror stories from so many brides who had difficulty trying on gowns. It now represents 15-20 percent of our business."

There are a few tips to keep in mind when shopping for the dress:

♥ **Set a budget.** Wedding gowns are expensive - know what your absolute ceiling is before you even begin the search and don't try on any gowns above your budget.

♥ **Know your body shape.** If you're

bottom-heavy try an A-line gown. Apple-shapes look best in empire waists or ball-gowns while top-heavy brides with hour glass figures tend to look their best in a trumpet silhouette.

♥ **Size is just a number.** Bridal gowns are notorious for being made much smaller than daily wear. If the number will affect how you feel about the gown, ask the consultant not to mention the size.

♥ **Be flexible.** While you may already have a silhouette in mind or on hand, trust your consultant and try on gowns that you may not have considered when you saw them on the rack or online - they may actually work. Choose the right fabrics. Keep in mind that thicker fabrics tend to work better on curves as they smooth things out. If you're fuller busted, avoid heavy beadery in the bodice as it will draw attention to that area. Remember that you can always add cap sleeves to a strapless gown to help streamline the look.

No matter a bride's shape and size, the one piece of advice all experts agree on is confidence. If the bride has confidence and feels beautiful in her gown, she radiates that feeling. (BPT)



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# Wow guests with original wedding reception touches

It is easy to achieve the wedding decor you see in your mind's eye with a few easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself projects.

## ♥ Tables they'll talk about

Find knick-knacks or trinkets that mean something special to you and then use spray paint to turn them into a coordinated collection perfect for sparking dinner conversation. For example, paint mismatched candlesticks and Christmas bulbs with Krylon Shimmer Metallic and ColorMaster spray paint in your wedding colors to create a glistening and glamorous centerpiece. Similarly, turn lovebird figures and plain tins into one-of-a-kind favors that are sure to please.

## ♥ Novel napkin rings

Custom-made napkin rings are just the right detail. Wood or metal rings are often available at your local craft store. Then make them your own by gluing on personalized tokens, such as small decorations ornaments or initials, and spray painting to coordinate with your other table decorations for a completely classy look.

## ♥ Table numbers

It's simple to add an elegant touch by creating your own table numbers using inexpensive photo frames. Once you have your frames, purchase house numbers (like those used to show an address) that will fit within the glass area of your



picture frames. Remove the glass and wipe all surfaces with alcohol to achieve a clean surface. Spray paint the frame and numbers the color of your choice. Metallic paints create a classy look that complements your main wedding colors. While those items dry, spray the glass with Krylon



Looking Glass Mirror-Like spray paint. Once all the pieces are dry, reassemble the frames and use an adhesive to bond the number to the front of the glass.

## ♥ Card catcher

Looking for a creative space for guests to put cards? Convert an old bird house into a beautiful vessel to capture cards. Whether metal or wood, start with a clean surface and paint it in your wedding colors and complementary metallics for a surprisingly classy simple solution for cards.

Visit [www.krylon.com](http://www.krylon.com). (BPT)

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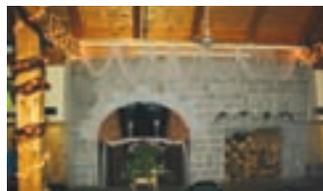
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*Lost dress? No-show caterer? Bankrupt photographer?*

# How to protect yourself from the worst wedding disasters

The reality is most weddings experience a hiccup or two, many of which are minor and even laughable after the day has passed. But some can be more devastating, such as a reception hall that closes before the big day, a stained or lost wedding dress, or your photographer goes out of business right after taking your deposit. "The majority of weddings will happen without major glitches, but to give yourself peace of mind and know you're better protected, it's important to add wedding insurance to your list of must-have's," says Steve Lauro, vice president of Aon's WedSafe wedding insurance program.

When things go wrong during the wedding planning process, or even on the day of the ceremony, it can be extremely stressful and the costs can quickly add up. However you cannot go back and protect yourself after an incident occurs, which is why wedding insurance is recommended as soon as you begin placing deposits with your vendors and reception venue.

"There are two types of insurance engaged couples should consider purchasing," suggests Lauro. "The first is event liability insurance and the second is event cancellation



and postponement insurance. They can both provide peace of mind and protection from financial loss should something occur."

Lauro explains the differences in the two types of insurance:

**♥ 1. Event liability insurance**

This type of insurance focuses on the event itself, providing protection to the couple and additional insureds, such as the venue.

**♥ 2. Event cancellation and postponement insurance**

You may never imagine a reason why you'd postpone your wedding, but between sickness, injury and natural disaster, it does force brides and grooms who may have no

other option. This type of insurance can help reimburse the cost of cancelling and rescheduling your wedding day.

A few additional tips for protecting yourself when planning your wedding include:

**♥ 1. Pay by credit card when possible**

Credit cards offer protection that cash and check payments do not, so it's a smart idea to pay with one if you can.

**♥ 2. Understand all contracts**

Before signing any contract, read and understand all the fine print. Don't be afraid to ask questions. If something in the contract makes you uncomfortable, see if it can be adjusted.

**♥ 3. Consider hiring an accredited wedding planner**

Wedding planners are an additional expense, but the expertise they provide can actually save you money that may surpass that cost. A good wedding planner will know the industry inside and out, and therefore be able to get you the best deals. Your wedding day is likely to be perfect, but just in case something happens, a few simple steps prior will protect your financial and emotional investment. (BPT)

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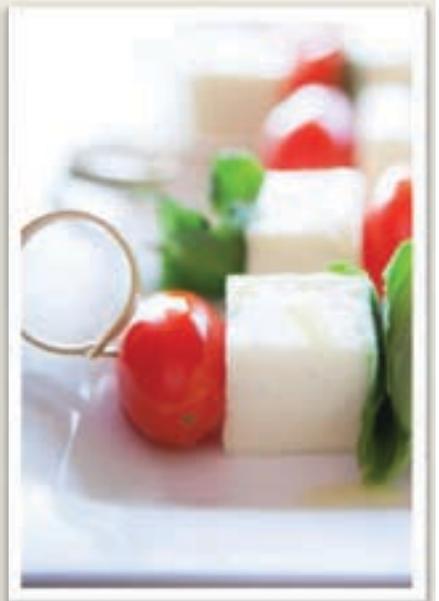
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