

You can't go wrong using bridal registry

As a bride-to-be, you may find it hard to decide what to do with all the gifts that will be coming your way. But a different way of thinking about gifts may be the answer. Instead of wondering what to do with all the gifts that will be coming your way, you can be sure to get what you need and want by using a bridal registry.

Bridal registry at local stores are recommended by Jacqueline Greenwood, Black & Decker's bridal program manager. "Listed here are gifts the bride has indicated she wants and needs. One can't go wrong giving a gift from this list," she says. "Make sure to purchase it at the store where the registry is, so that it will be crossed off and no one will duplicate the gift."

But if getting a gift idea from the registry seems too impersonal and routine, go ahead and make a creative, personal choice, she says. And giving a personal gift to the bride, instead of a household item, is appropriate if you're a friend of the bride. "Roommates in college? Get a college memento — per-

haps a keychain or a small picture of the couple's favorite place."

GREENWOOD ADVISES

to give gifts that are meaningful and useful. "If you're not sure what to give, ask the bride what she needs. If you're not sure what to give, ask the bride what she needs. If you're not sure what to give, ask the bride what she needs."

Appliances are among the most common gifts, and many, collegemakers or blenders will be among those needed. A personal touch suggested by Greenwood is to put a corn popper with membership in the local video rental store.

She cautions that the giver should think small, choosing compact versions of kitchen appliances, since the couple's first home likely will be compact. And if you're giving a shower party, pick a theme that will help organize the gift choices — such as something for every room in the house or apartment.

Going to chapel

Continued from Page 6

photographers beforehand so they don't dominate the wedding.

Another area where she can be helpful, Kent says, is in defusing family tensions. "Weddings can cause all sorts of problems," she notes. "Families can disagree about the size of the wedding and the cost and whom to invite. The brides' and grooms' families may not get along. Because we're not emotionally involved, we can help them sort those things out."

Going to the Chapel charges a flat fee of \$400 for its services, from planning the major aspects of the wedding to attending the day of the ceremony. They charge additional fees for addressing invitations, or helping with the rehearsal dinner or shower. For Kent, it is an enjoyable and rewarding occupation.

"When I was growing up in Ohio, my family had a business making custom bridal dresses, so dealing with brides has been part of my life," she says. "There's nothing more special than seeing a bride come down the aisle — and knowing you've been part of it is really something."

Credits

This special bridal section appearing today in all editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers was coordinated by Marie McGee, special sections editor.

Advertising coordinators were Marsha Stamps and Rhonda Rosser. Special writers were Cathleen Lee Collins and Linda Sparkman.

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