

WEDDING LIST GUIDE

Amongst the many things to organise before your wedding, is your wedding gift list – and what could be nicer than a chance to compile a lovely list of things you'd like! Before you get started, here's some advice on what to consider when creating your list.

Etiquette

It may seem odd to request a list of gifts, but it is a common tradition and unlikely to offend your guests. A specific list is also extremely practical – many of your guests are unlikely to know what you want or what you already have. So being able to choose from a list provided by you ensures guests know what to buy - and of course you know you will receive something you want!

One way to make it seem less awkward is to mention it as being optional – for example, “If you'd like to bring a gift, our wedding list can be found at...”

If you do happen to know of anyone likely to take offence, just don't tell them about it!

How long will it take?

Wedding website Confetti suggests you allow a month to compile your wedding list, and that you should aim to have it ready three months before the big day. However, whilst most department stores will require you to complete your list three months in advance of the wedding, on My List Is Here there are no such restrictions! You can create the list whenever you wish. However, be practical – give yourself plenty of time to compile it, and your guests plenty of time to purchase from it.

If you plan to send details of your list together with invitations, it would be sensible to ensure you have the list ready by the time your guests receive details of it.

How much should I ask for?

You may well find that people are more generous than you'd expect, so it's worth listing more than you expect to receive. Start by adding a third more than you'd expect, and then monitor your list. With My List Is Here you'll be able to keep track of how many gifts have been purchased, and you can always add more if the available gifts start to run out.

How expensive should my gifts be?

Statistics vary enormously when it comes to the average cost of a wedding gift, and there are also regional variations across the UK. The best way to deal with this is to choose gifts to suit a range of budgets, so no-one feels pressured into buying something they can't afford. This also gives people the option to buy two or three cheaper gifts.

If you want to request a more expensive gift, like a dinner set for example, listing the individual items separately will allow a variety of people to purchase sections of it.

Gift vouchers are another good option – they allow people to choose the amount they wish to spend, and you can then choose exactly what you'd like to buy.

On My List Is Here you can monitor your list and track what items have been purchased – if gifts in a particular price range are running out, you can simply add more on.

What should I ask for?

This will depend on what stage of life you are at, and how much you have already. The idea of a wedding list originally was to help couples setting up home for the first time. Today many people already own homes or live together before they get married, and therefore own a lot of the basics already.

If you don't have much in the way of household goods, this is an ideal opportunity to fill in some of the gaps. If, on the other hand, you already have most of what you need, this is a chance to upgrade some of the older items, and also to request more luxurious items that you wouldn't necessarily buy yourself.

For the couple that already own everything they want, food and wine gifts or experiences can be a good option. Personalised gifts are also becoming extremely popular.

Our Wedding Gift Check List contains a comprehensive list of both traditional household items and more unusual gift options – if you're not sure where to begin, our checklist will be a good start. Our Style Files are also full of lovely gift ideas and suggestions of shops to browse.

Distributing Your List

It's practical and helpful to send details of your wedding list together with the wedding invitation – it gives your guests plenty of time to purchase a gift, and it saves you sending out two lots of information. When you create a wedding list with MyListIsHere.com, you can generate a web link to it which can be sent out with your wedding invitations. Alternatively, you can email your wedding guests the link.

Delivery

You will need to let guests know how you want your gifts delivered. You may want them brought to the wedding, in which case you will need to ensure you have somewhere at the venue to store them. Alternatively you may prefer to have them delivered by post. In this case you should choose an address where someone is normally in. You may wish to consider using yours or your partner's work address, or perhaps your parents' address if they are retired. When you create your wedding list on My List Is Here, there are various places where you can add notes for your guests. You can have a note that covers the entire list, and you can also make notes on each individual item. You can use these notes sections to state your delivery preferences – you may want some gifts posted and others brought to the reception for example.

If for security reasons you prefer not to have your address online, you should include it with your wedding invitation. This is certainly something you should consider if planning to use your home address or that of a friend or family member.