

Consuming Thoughts

Fay Strickler

Penn State Extension
Home Economist
For Berks Co.



Have you ever thought that with changing times comes a change in the type of wedding gift you might be purchasing for a couple this June?

Today, most people have been working for a while before they marry, and traditional wedding gifts may no longer be appropriate.

For example, there are many couples that have such basics as toasters, can openers, and blenders.

Many friends are giving gifts that are more luxury items than necessities. Gifts that help the newlyweds plan for the future and manage their household also are appreciated.

One item enjoyed but often not purchased by the bride and groom is artwork. Sculpture in wood, glass, pottery, metal, prints, and paintings, all make fine gifts, as long as they are bought with the newlywed's taste in mind. Hand-crafted pottery that can be used to serve food is always useful. If it is an unusual piece or from a well-known craftsman, it will be a life time treasure and conversation piece when hosting a party.

A good place to shop for such gifts is the many arts fairs, craft shops and community festivals.

If the couple enjoys cooking and entertaining, some specialty appliances make nice gifts. These include food processors, toaster

ovens, and microwave ovens. Because space is often limited, appliances that do double-duty are usually appreciated.

Giving additional serving pieces to dinnerware the couple already has collected also makes sense.

For patio entertaining, quality plastic dinnerware or a picnic basket might come in handy.

Gifts that are an investment in the future are both practical and add a nice touch of symbolism at this time in the couple's life.

Savings bonds that increase in value as time goes on fit in with the emphasis on the future that a wedding brings.

Money and household management gifts are appropriate, especially for two-career couples. These can include books about money management with a savings bond to go with them.

You also might buy a filing cabinet or other gifts that encourage the couple to have a business center.

If the couple is moving to an

apartment or new home, inquire if indoor or outdoor plants are needed for the new living quarters. A small plant or tree growing larger every year will be a reminder of a thoughtful gift giver.

With dual-career couples, a gift of services might be appreciated. For example, you might pay to have their lawn taken care of for a year.

A shower gift suggestion might include gift certificates to a grocery store, your favorite recipes with the needed ingredients all

wrapped for the festive occasion. A gift of food or groceries can help a new couple start house-keeping with an assortment of food products. Or you might give a gift certificate which will teach a skill such as bread baking. For couples who enjoy dining out, a gift certificate to a special restaurant might be an ideal gift that can be used at the first anniversary.

Finally, remember to choose gifts that will be used by the newlyweds rather than wind up being stored indefinitely.

Food Preservation Information

The Complete Guide to Home Canning AGRS-55 is available to purchase from Penn State. Send \$6 to Penn State University, Publications Distribution Center, Penn State University, 112 Agriculture

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