

# The rehearsal dinner

It has become commonplace for couples to practice what will be expected of them and the wedding party during the wedding ceremony.

A church or synagogue may require an abbreviated run through of the ceremony, and the officiate will instruct the wedding party on how to enter and leave the building, as well as when to engage in scripture readings, etc.

This rehearsal typically takes place the evening before the wedding or a few days prior.

After the rehearsal, it's customary for the immediate family and wedding party to go out to dinner together and get to know each other before the wedding.

Traditionally, the groom's parents host the dinner, which gives the mother of the groom a role in the wedding festivities. However, many of today's modern couples factor the rehearsal dinner cost into their overall wedding budget.

The rehearsal dinner doesn't have to be an extravagant affair. It can take place at a restaurant or even in someone's backyard. Some of the best are informal and really allow everyone to mingle.

This occasion is also the ideal time to give groomsmen and bridesmaids a gift for their par-



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icipation in the wedding, especially if a bridesmaid luncheon is not being held.

The bride and groom should also thank everyone for being a part of their special day and helping out with all of the wedding planning.

Source: Metro.

# Getting engaged is just the beginning ... now what?

Are you one of the thousands of couples who got engaged over the holidays?

This is the time for you and your soon-to-be to get everything you ever wanted — the time to start from scratch, to upgrade, expand and replace. To turn a whole bunch of mismatched “mine and yours” into a lifetime of “ours.”

A lot of couples become overwhelmed, feeling they have to get it all done at once. According to the experts at Bed Bath & Beyond, this is totally normal. When it comes to registering, they suggest you relax, take your time and have fun. Go back to the stores as many times as needed, or update your registry online.

Here are some additional tips to make wedding planning a breeze:

- Plan ahead— Start a bridal registry as soon as you say “yes.” This way you will be prepared for your engagement party and bridal shower, as well as your wedding. Periodically update your registry by adding more products if you need to, even after the wedding. Be kind to procrastinators.

- Don't be shy— Register for gifts in a range of prices and categories. This will give guests and group givers lots of options to choose from.

- Do the math— Here's an easy rule of thumb: Add up all the gift-givers for both your wedding and bridal shower.

Register for at least two times as many gifts as givers. Your guests will appreciate having lots of choices when they shop for you. Be sure to refresh your list regularly as gifts get purchased.

- Register now, because you won't buy it later— You may think you will... but you won't. Now is the time to let others get you the stuff you'd never buy yourself. Your friends and family might even get together to purchase a higher priced “group gift.”

- Remember the rule of three— When it comes to setting your table, if you choose bold patterns for your china and flatware, pick a more simple style of glassware. Prefer intricate stemware? Pair it with simpler patterns of china and flatware. So, it's bold/bold/simple or simple/simple/bold.

- Three sheets is a win— Register for at least three sets of sheets — one for the bed, one for the linen closet and one for the hamper. This way you won't be forced to do laundry.

Congratulations and best wishes on your engagement. Now get registering and let the gift-giving begin.

Source: Metro.

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