

REGISTERING FOR THE KITCHEN SINK

Mick Jagger may claim “You can’t always get what you want,” but the Internet is providing a way to change that, letting you take advantage of no-returns, get-what-you-want gift registries. Whether for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, or holidays, registries are finding a home online with companies such as WishClick and eWish. Even Yahoo (giftregistry.yahoo.com) and Amazon.com have created applications that allow customers to create wish lists. Ask for “Cancun in the spring” for your birthday or a lobster dinner for your anniversary at NetGift Registry. Your friends and family can then log onto the site to view your selections. And at WishConnect, the registry includes everything from computers to sports equipment and pet supplies. Once you’ve made a list, the toughest job may be getting everyone on your gift-giving list to register, so that you can say goodbye to long lines and lousy parking. Traditional rules for gift-giving just don’t apply anymore.

Happy couples can now visit such sites as Weddingchannel.com to register with a variety of stores. Such stores include Restoration Hardware, where couples can list home items ranging from a frog-shaped doorbell to a 1952 leather recliner chair, and REI, where they can pick out his-and-her backpacks and sleeping bags. Friends and family are just as likely to be shopping for tried-and-true wedding classics such as china and silver as for a host of nontraditional gifts such as cooking lessons, golf clubs, wine, and cigars, and—believe it or not—mortgage payments. The more practical can log onto the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) site (www.hud.gov/bridal.html) to set up a registry account with a qualified bank, allowing guests to directly deposit cash toward a down payment on the couple’s dream house. For adventurous couples, WeddingNetwork.com allows them to register for hot-air balloon flights, white-water rafting expeditions, or Jeep tours.—KRISTEN CHANLEY

