

Wedding gifts can help build

# A House of Love

Blenders and blankets and bath sets, "Oh my!"  
But why settle for same ol' as weddings draw nigh?  
Kick 'em up, rev 'em up, score gifts so right,  
To make newlywed's homes and gardens a delight!

A properly chosen wedding or anniversary gift, in sync with a pair's needs and personalities, not only creates instant pleasure in the yard or house they share but can keep on giving as the years roll by.

Consider pillowcases or towels embroidered or stamped with a couple's last initial, or a "his-and-hers" pair with their individual initials. Visit local JCPenney, Walmart or Fred Meyer stores to check out "initialed" linens, which sometime must be special ordered.

## Story by Carole Thompson Beers

Or, head for Savannah Faire or another home-craft store for fabric paint, sew-on or iron-on letters, or an embroidery kit to add initials to plain gift linens.

La Bella Casa Design has a variety of special gifts for newlyweds and anniversary couples.

"The 'bottle-abras,' or candelabras designed to be stuck into the neck of an empty, special wine or champagne bottle, are very unusual," Beth Forshay, store manager, said. "They are a great way to commemorate a special occasion."

The design store also has decorative wall clocks whose hands, at gift time, can be set at the time of the wedding.

Jan's Hallmark and Fiona Bean, and home decor departments of box stores, often stock single large initials a couple can mount on a wall.

Redwood Nursery's home decor and garden accessory section features sculptures and fountains to stir romance long after the last wedding bell echo fades.

Arbors, a garden swing or love seat for two, seen at Redwood Nursery as well as at Diamond Home Improvement, could

also delight.

Chet's Garden Center will plant a special flower or herb pot or two for a couple using their wedding color scheme or catering to their culinary likes. These could be outdoor plants or house plants. Bring in pots or buy ones at Chet's. Staff will fill the containers with fresh soil, fertilizer and plants.

"Or, you can have our floral design department make a special bouquet of fresh or silk flowers or other materials, using items from wedding decorations," designer Erin Barry said. "I did just such an arrangement for the holidays. A young man brought in a set of wooden kitchen spoons he'd bought from The Kitchen Company for his grandmother. I put together a bouquet of silk flowers and worked in the spoons. The man just loved it."

PenniesWorth Acres Nurserys can go plant a tree, shrub or ground cover as a gift in a couple's yard. Or, give a gift card for same so they can pick out the item and call utility locators at least two days before digging begins.

"We also can install rock or irrigation, put in stepping stones, or plant roses, whatever you want, as a gift," nursery owner Rene Pare said.

A small water feature, or even a saltwater aquarium, is available through The Frog Prince.

"We set up saltwater aquarium for as little as \$100," Manager Miguel Mazama said. "That includes all the equipment. What fish they put in is up to them. Aquariums are very beautiful features for a home."

When it comes to wedding and anniversary gifts for home and garden, let wallet and the spirit of the lucky couple be the guide. **HG**



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