OCEAN FLOWERS

5 Wedding Registry Mistakes: Linens

About to open your wedding registry? Here are the five most common mistakes couples make when choosing their bedding.

1. Focusing on ultra-high thread count

Most people think the higher the tread count, the better the sheets. But thread count alone does not give you the entire picture. The three things to look for in bedding that will deliver that optimum soft, smooth feel are:

- fabrics anywhere between 300 and 450 thread count
- made from extra-long staple single-ply cotton
- a sateen weave

2. Thinking you need to choose "grown-up" colors

Don't shop for bedding like you would your formal china. The look of luxury does not mean your linens need to be white. Or off-white. Instead, add some personality to your bedroom with pops of colors and patterns.

3. Matching everything

Find the right balance between patterns and basics. For example if you choose a bold chevron duvet cover, match it with more traditional, basic sheets. If you are not a fan of the coordinating pillows on display, shop around and choose your own. There are really no rules when coordinating the sheet set, shams, and duvet cover ... so have some fun. Mix and match complementary patterns and textures. Don't think you have to be stuck with a bed-in-a-bag combination.

4. Registering for just one comforter

Think about your bedding needs through the seasons. You may want a down comforter for those cold winter nights, but a lightweight comforter for the spring

and summer. The added benefit here is that you get to choose two or three different patterns, so you'll never get sick of your bedding! And register for more sheet sets than you think you'll need; it's always good to have a spare (or two) in the linen closet.

5. Thinking only about the present

Do you currently have a queen bed? If you're considering upgrading to the king, register for that king comforter instead. It'll still work on your smaller bed, but you won't need to replace it when you do get the king. Are you planning on moving into a larger home after the wedding? (Psst. You might want to think about your guest-room needs as well;-)