

# Well stocked linen closet a must for new homemakers

The trick to obtaining a well-stocked linen closet is to know exactly what you want and then let others know about it. In many stores today, you can register not only your china, crystal and silver patterns, but your choice of patterns and colors for sheets and pillowcases, towels and tablecloths. That way, you'll eliminate haphazard presents at weddings and showers.

But before you're ready to put down exactly what you want, you should know a few basic facts about the terms used in connection with linens.

First off, sheet sizes are based on mattress sizes. The standard double bed, measuring 74 inches by 76 inches, may not be large enough for comfort for you and your husband-to-be. The makers assert that a mattress should be at least 20 inches wide for each adult sleeper and long enough so that your feet don't extend beyond the end of the mattress. There are three sizes in extra-width bedding: queen size, measuring 80 by 80 inches; king size, 72 by 84 inches; or hollywood, 78 by 76 inches. And you can buy sheets and blankets for all these sizes.

Today, although they're still called "linens", most sheets are made of cotton — or blended with synthetic fibers. Quality sheets are cotton percale. The finer and smoother the sheet, the more closely woven are the threads, and this is where the term "thread count" occurs. For example, a percale sheet with a 120 count is more closely woven and softer than say a 180 count. The count means the number of threads per inch — both lengthwise and crosswise. Muslin sheets are of heavier cotton thread; and more loosely woven. The thread count for muslin sheets averages 120. They are more coarse to the touch than percale, but are strong and durable. And muslin is less expensive than percale.

Moving on to minimum quantities for your linen trousseau, it's a good idea to keep in mind that you should have one set of sheets in use, one in the laundry and one in reserve. So you should have at least three top sheets and three bottom sheets per bed, three pillowcases for each pillow and three sets of towels and facecloths per person. In addition you'll want extra towels for guests. And you should have mattress pads for each mattress, seasonal blankets and two bath mats.

Sheets come not only in white but in pale colors and vivid ones with all-over patterns, with patterns only on borders, and more loosely woven.

embroidered and with monograms. You should coordinate what you choose so that your bed linens carry through the same color scheme — if not matched, at least related. You'll see a more attractive result if you try to keep a balance between patterns and solids, keeping in mind how the sheets will look with your blankets.

And remember to think about your fiance's likes and dislikes. He might not feel at home with those rosebuds and intertwined ivy leaves which you're attracted to — or perhaps lavender is not his dream of "the perfect color."

Just to keep the record straight, fine tablecloths and napkins, also called linens, actually are made of linen. Watch for the weight and closeness of the weave — for these are signs of durability. Hold the fabric up to the light to check for weak spots. Check hems. If a cloth is trimmed, make sure the lace is securely attached and that it can be laundered the same as the cloth. Be sure when you go shopping for tablecloths that you have the correct measurement of your table size. You'll want to be sure your cloth covers your table and leaves about a 13-inch drop on all the sides.



Mrs. George Beck, the former Lorraine Campbell, Montague.

### NEVER WALK!

The bridal party never walks in wedding clothes from home to church or from church to the reception unless the bride is the daughter of the clergyman and lives in the manse adjacent to the church.

Heckbert Photo.

## Ceremony dictates type of invitations

The type of invitation you send out for your wedding depends on what kind of ceremony you're having.

For a small wedding, with fewer than 50 guests, handwritten notes from either the bride or her mother are acceptable. But for a large informal wedding, or a formal ceremony, the bride usually sends out invitations engraved on white, ivory or cream-colored paper.

For formal weddings, a large size paper, folded square, with engraving on the top sheet, is usually used. This is folded once when put in the envelope. The tissue paper is left in to protect the engraving. A smaller size paper, inserted without folding, is used for less formal weddings.

If you do not wish to use engraving, you may choose a form of printing which resembles engraving. It is less expensive and has become popularly accepted.

Invitations should be ordered from your jeweler, stationer or department stores. Most stores have consultants to advise the bride on the wording. Invitations to a church "request the honor of your presence." Invitations to a reception read, "pleasure of your company."

The invitations should be sent by the bride's parents. If the parents are deceased, they are sent by a close relative. In cases where the parents are divorced, the invitations are sent by that parent with whom the bride lives.

If all of the guests are invited to both the ceremony and the reception, one invitation is sufficient. If there is a separate guest list for each event, a small reception card is enclosed with the invitation to the ceremony.

The outer envelopes for the invitations should be addressed by hand — never typed. The inner envelope is left unsealed and is addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Doe, without first names or address.

Young children may be included by writing their first names in a line below their parents'. Older children should receive their own invitations.



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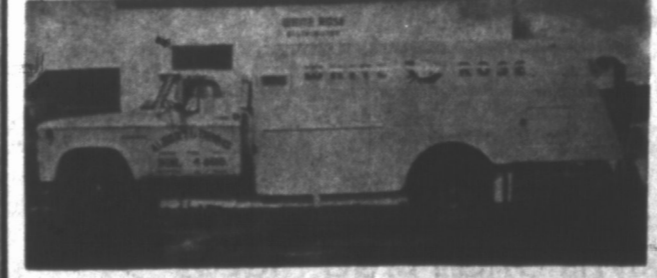
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## Look, learn before purchasing a ring

The word diamond seems to have become almost synonymous with engagement. Whether you and your fiance shop for an engagement ring together or he buys it alone, there are certain things to keep in mind.

Educate yourself about diamonds. Look at as many stones as possible. Know the different cuts and train yourself to detect gradations in color. No two diamonds are alike—even if they are the same size. That's why prices vary.

Do business with a reliable jeweler. Ask him to show you diamonds under the loupe—a special magnifying glass which will show the interior body of the gem.

Remember the four C's—carat weight, color, clarity and cut. They act as a team to set the fifth C—cost.

Carat is the unit of measure in weighing diamonds. Each carat is divided into 100 points. Color can vary greatly and will affect price. The whiter the gem, the greater its value. There are over 200 shades of

reflect brilliance. Cut also refers to the shape of the diamond.

There are four basic shapes: round, pear, square, marquise and emerald-cut. A round diamond, often called a brilliant-cut, is popular as a solitaire or single-stone ring. The pear shape, wide at one end and tapering to a point at the other, is worn with the point toward the fingertip. A marquise diamond looks like a boat, with a point at one end. And emerald cut has straight sides and comes in both square and oblong contours.

There are other fancy cuts, such as heart-shaped and oval, which are often set as center stones in engagement rings. Baguette are straight-sided diamonds, used as side stones in rings.

**FASHIONABLE TIMES**  
In the northeast section of the country, the most fashionable times for a wedding are late afternoon and early evening. In other areas, 3 and 5 p.m. are considered fashionable.

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