

Anniversary Gifts and Names

A Brief History

Earliest known references are to the 25th (Silver) and 50th (Gold) wedding anniversaries. They appear to have originated in Middle Europe (Germanic Region) and involved the spouse giving his wife a silver garland when they had been married for twenty five years.

The earliest reference other than silver or gold is the 5th anniversary which is wood. This appears to have taken hold around 1875.

Currently there are two diamond anniversaries, one at 60 and one at 75 years. The 75th is the original with the 60th being added when Queen Victoria (English Empire Monarch) celebrated her Diamond Jubilee on the 60th anniversary of accession to the throne in 1897.

In 1937 the American National Retail Jeweler Association issued a more comprehensive list which put a material for every year up until the 50th anniversary.

Traditionally, gifts exchanged or given in the early years of marriage were practical household items to aid the couple in starting a new home together (an extension of the wedding gift). Luxury gifts tend to be given in the later years when the couple has already acquired things they need.

Year	Traditional Presents	Modern Presents	Jewelry/Gem
1	Paper Strength obtained from interlocking fibers	Clocks Eternal love	Gold Jewelry, Pearls, Peridot
2	Cotton, Straw, Calico Prosperity and durability	China Timeless	Garnet, Red
3	Leather Durability	Crystal or Glass Timeless	Pearl or Jade; White or Green
4	Flowers, Fruit, Books Blossoming, fruitful relationship	Appliances Practical	Blue Topaz; Blue or Green
5	Wood Strong, long lasting	Silverware Practical	Sapphire; Blue Pink, turquoise

Year	Tradition Presents	Modern Presents	
10	Tin or Aluminum Flexibility, malleability of relationship	Diamond Jewelry Indestructable	Diamond Jewelry; Silver or blue
15	Crystal	Watches	Ruby
20	China	Platinum	Emerald
25	Silver	Silver	
30	Pearl	Diamond	Diamond
40	Ruby	Ruby	Ruby
50	Gold	Gold	Gold
55	Emerald/Turquoise	Emerald	Emerald
60	Diamond	Diamond	Diamond
75	Diamond	Diamond	Diamond