

How to renew one's Marriage Vows



I am not sure if this is in our Hindu shastras but I kinda like the idea of doing this... I find that this makes a couple even more close and tightens the bonds of their relationship even more. Of course if this doesn't appeal to you then just don't do it...

How to renew your wedding vows?

The good news is, there are far less rules & dos and don'ts about vow renewal than almost any other kind of ritual. It can be as simple as the two of you alone in a beautiful spot reciting vows you have written, or a fancy affair with hundreds of guests.

In this world where divorce seems to be the norm, a couple managing to stay together through thick and thin deserves some celebration! If you and your spouse have made it to a significant anniversary, or you just want to have a "do-over" wedding, consider a vow renewal.

Renewing your marriage vows is appropriate for married couples regardless of how long you have been married.

"A renewal of wedding vows ceremony can be a meaningful, touching, reviving ceremony for you and your children, family and friends. As a married couple, it is a time to pause and reflect on where you have been and where you are going. It is also a wonderful example to set for your

children and grandchildren. Can you imagine a more beautiful scene than children watching their parents joining hands and hearts as they affirm the magnitude and strength of their enduring love? What greater life/love lesson? Remember this: "True love does not wither or die. It merely ripens."

Goods Reasons You Might Want a Vow Renewal

- You want to celebrate your 5-year, 10-year, 25-year etc. wedding anniversary
- You only got married legally before, and now want to marry religiously
- You only got married religiously before, and now want to marry legally
- Your first wedding had some element of disaster, and you want a do-over
- You didn't have much money for your first wedding, and you want a more elaborate wedding.
- You got married with only a few people present, and you'd like to say wedding vows in front of lots of family and friends.
- You've had some rocky times in your relationship, and would now like to reaffirm your commitment to one another.
- You think it would be romantic.
- You were married in a different country and want to celebrate your marriage locally with family and friends.
- You and your spouse have had a difficult time and want to start fresh.
- The two of you want to make a public statement of your love and commitment to each other.
- You originally had a civil wedding, and you want to have a religious ceremony now.

A Bad Reason to Have a Vow Renewal Ceremony

- You miss wedding planning and want to throw another party. The focus of any wedding, but especially a vow renewal, should be the promises you are making to each other, and the sacred ritual of marriage, not the party.

How to renew your wedding vows

First Steps

Just as with any wedding planning, you should begin by figuring out what style of ceremony/reception you'd like, deciding a budget, picking a date and finding a venue. Some couples who are older will have much more money than when they wed the first time; others whose parents helped the first time will have far less. The good news is that vow renewals are generally cheaper than first weddings, and with less rules on what "should" be done, you can really concentrate on the elements that are important to you.

How Elaborate Should a Vow Renewal Be?

The answer to this question lies in your own reason for wanting a vow renewal ceremony. Many people chose to renew their vows because they were so caught up in the planning and the partying of their first wedding, they felt the focus of the day was taken off of the ceremony. Therefore, most vow renewals tend to be intimate celebrations, with only close family and friends present, and a lunch afterwards at a nice restaurant. Others who didn't have much money for their first wedding have very lavish ceremonies and parties afterwards.

Many couples want to celebrate and reaffirm their love and commitment for one another by renewing their marriage vows, either privately or publicly, and by saying "I do" again. Here are ways that a renewal of your vows can be both fun and meaningful.

Legalities of Renewing Your Marriage Vows

A renewal of your vows is NOT a legal ceremony. It is only a symbolic, sentimental ceremony. Generally, for a renewal of vows, a license is not required and paperwork is not needed.

Some officiants and wedding chapels/temples may request to see your marriage certificate to confirm that you are already married.

In some countries like the UK the Registration Offices have been providing couples with the opportunity to have their marriage vows renewed in public locations. They may also provide souvenir certificates.

Decisions to Make When Renewing Your Marriage Vows

Remind yourself that when you have a public renewal of your wedding vows, you are not having a second wedding.

We do not recommend having:

- A gift registry

- A shower
- Bachelor or bachelorette type parties
- Attendants such as a maid of honour or a best man
- A procession down the aisle
- A tiered wedding cake.

We do recommend:

- Keep your renewal of marriage vows meaningful and simple.
- If you write your own vows, don't draw attention to negativity in your past. Focus on your future together.
- Walk towards one another from sides of the room or area rather than having a procession down a centre aisle.
- Re-dedicate your rings or have your wedding rings blessed instead of purchasing new rings.
- A "no-gift" type of reception.
- Toasts.

So this is basically what should be done...

After having a bath wear clean traditional outfits...

Go in front of your alter/prayer place or in front of a temple Deities.

Lights some candles and play some cool music in the background. Make the environment really romantic...

Then now chant these two mantras while holding each other's hands and looking very lovingly at each other while facing each other...

Chant each word by word

Om sakhaa sapta padee bhava
Sakhyang te ga me yang
Sakhyang te maa yosha her
Sakhyang te maa yosh taa her

Say line by line...

Be my companion for life
Fixed in the 7 vows
May I attain companionship with you?
Please don't break this bond.

Then chant this mantra word by word

Om mama vrate hrida yang dadhaatu
Mama cittang anu cittam te astu
Mama vaach eka manaa jushasva
Shree Vishnu her tvaa niyu naktu mayam

Say line by line...

May your heart be fixed
On my life's goals
May your mind
Follow after mine
With body and soul
Be devoted to my words
May Lord Vishnu join us together.

Then you can read a prepared note (which was written before hand) to each other expressing ones love to each other... just like how the Christians do... after this enjoy the occasion...

NB:- If you like you can request your Pundit/Priest to perform a simple Havan on this occasion as a gratitude to the Lord. But this is optional...

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