

You can bring flowers to a baby shower instead of a gift, but consider what the parents are expecting and what would be useful to them. Flowers are a kind gesture, while an item from a registry may better meet their practical needs.

Consider the invitation first

Read the invitation for any guidance about gifts. Some parents include a registry, ask for a particular item, or say that no gifts are needed. Following those wishes is a considerate place to start.

If the invitation says gifts are optional, a small bunch of flowers is a reasonable way to mark the occasion. If it asks guests to contribute to a specific need, flowers may be less helpful on their own.

You can also ask the host if you are unsure. A simple question about whether flowers would be welcome is enough. There is no need to explain your budget or defend your choice.

Think about what flowers offer

Flowers bring color to the celebration and give the parents something enjoyable for themselves. They can feel especially personal if you know a favorite flower or color. A short card makes the gesture clear and gives the parents a message to keep after the flowers fade.

Unlike diapers, clothing, or other baby supplies, flowers do not meet an ongoing practical need. If you know the family is relying on the shower to gather essentials, a registry item may be the more useful choice. A group gift with other guests is another option if buying an item alone is difficult.

Choose flowers that are easy to manage

The parents may have a busy day, several gifts to carry, and limited room at the venue. Choose an arrangement that is simple to transport and does not demand much attention.

- Pick a modest bouquet rather than a large arrangement that takes up space.
- Consider flowers in a sturdy container if the parents will not have a vase nearby.
- Choose lightly scented flowers if you do not know the parents' preferences.
- Check with the host before bringing flowers if the venue has restrictions.

If the shower is away from home, ask yourself how the flowers will get back with the parents. A wrapped bunch may be easier to carry, but it will need water once they arrive home.

Make the gesture fit the occasion

A small bouquet can accompany a practical gift, but it does not have to. If flowers are what you can comfortably give, bring them with a warm note and avoid apologizing for not bringing something else.

For a shower held close to the baby's arrival, you might also ask if the parents would prefer flowers delivered later. That gives them a choice and avoids adding another item to carry home from the party.

Common questions

Is it rude to bring only flowers?

Not necessarily. It depends on the invitation and the parents' wishes. If they have asked for specific practical help, consider honoring that request instead.

Should I bring flowers if the invitation says no gifts?

Ask the host first. The parents may mean that they do not want guests to bring anything, including flowers.

More background: online flower ordering tips