

GARAGE SALES



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Repurpose Old Toys

Toys are some of the most popular garage sale items out there and for good reason. Kids are loaded with them and tend to outgrow them quickly.

You may also find scores of vintage toys that were squirreled away in attics at downsizing sales, or even collectible toys as some adults pare down their collections. Reuse those finds with these creative ideas.

TURN THEM INTO PULLS

Toy cars, animals or anything else that can neatly fit into a hand and hold up to a fastener can make a door or

drawer pull. Consider using something like train cars or trucks for a whimsical new life on a simple cabinet or piece of furniture.

MAKE IT A PLANTER

Wagons, baskets, dump trucks — anything that's essentially a vessel can become a planter.

Make sure it can handle getting wet and the beating sun, and make sure you can drill

some drain holes into it. Bonus if the toy has wheels so you can move your plants around to follow the sun, shade or warmth.

LEGO, EVERYWHERE

LEGOs can take you as far as your imagination can go. People have turned LEGOs into countertops, planters, utensil jars, chargers, key hooks and even whole staircases.

FRIDGE MAGNETS

This is another job for those collections of tiny toys. Grab your favorite shade of spray paint, a glue gun and some magnets and turn your fridge into a color-coordinated menagerie of fun.

ADORN A FRAME

Keep that hot glue gun out and use it to frame your favorite photos with blocks or other toys. Find some alphabet blocks? Spell out a name, holiday or just a fun word. Have army men scaling the side of an ornate frame for a fun take on a serious work of art.

MAKE THEM INTO A LAMP

Also grab a lamp from a sale and stack toys on the base for a fun way to light up a room or a desk. Consider making it a monochromatic statement piece with a coordinating bright shade of spray paint. Just check to make sure

that the lamp works and that the wiring is in good condition before you commit.

TURN VINTAGE GAME BOARDS INTO ART

Frame up vintage game boards and cards to make art on a budget for a game room or play room. For some pieces, you may want to spray them with a material-safe clear sealer to help preserve them. Always test the sealer in an inconspicuous spot before covering the whole thing. Tip: This is a great way to use games that are missing pieces. You can negotiate a great deal on these from sellers who may have thought they wouldn't sell at all.

SELLER'S TIP

Preparing Toys for Sale

Group like toys together as much as you can in your sale. Clean them up as well as you can without damaging them and note if an item is missing pieces, is broken or damaged, or if it's complete and ready to use. Keep batteries on hand for testing toys that take batteries. Check for recalls on toys before putting them out for sale. Never sell a recalled item. Instead, dispose of it per the company's instructions.

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