

GARAGE SALES

Decorating on a Budget

Garage sales are great places for finding home décor for pennies on the dollar versus what you'd spend in stores. The key to successful garage sale decorating is to purchase quality pieces that compliment what you already have. Here's how to have happy garage sale hunting for home décor.

GET A PLAN

Before you head out to the sales, have a plan for each room of your house. Know what you're looking for, down to measurements, styles and colors. It may be helpful to bring a notebook with each room of your house sketched out, including measurements, so that you know what you have room for — and what you don't.

If you have specific collections you're looking to add to, keep wishlists of items so that you don't waste precious sale time on Google finding out if a piece goes with your collec-



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tion or not. You can also work off your heart — if you like it, it comes home with you — but be willing to be disappointed if it's not what you

thought it was.

You also want to plan out your garage sale route before you leave. Map out which sales you want to hit using the

listings in your local newspapers and online ads. Leave time for shopping at each sale, paying careful attention to the hours of the sale and

any other rules (some areas may still have pandemic gathering restrictions in place). Carry plenty of cash with you in small bills. Also schedule pit stops for bathroom and snack breaks to avoid haggling while hangry.

BE PATIENT

Be willing to wait for just the right item and fight the urge to let your emotions take over. This also helps when negotiating; if the seller sees how badly you want it, it could encourage them to jack up the price to make more money. Instead, be patient and wait for the right time — and just the right item — to buy.

There's a thrill when you find just the right item for just the right place. And there's just as much disappointment when an impulse buy doesn't work out.

COME PREPARED

Bring more than just cash. Some things you might consider bringing when shopping for home décor include a tape measure, a flashlight for peering into the innards of furniture for manufacturer's marks or hidden damage, plenty of packing materials so that fragile items make it home safely and a vehicle large enough to safely transport your treasures, especially if furniture's on your wish list.

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SELLER'S TIP

Think Like a Retail Store

When putting out your home décor items, think like a retail store and stage them to look more attractive to buyers. Arrange (clean!) items in well-lit areas and put like items together so that buyers can easily imagine the possibilities. If you have whole collections of goods for sale, make sure to include that in your advertising — vintage Pyrex is a huge draw right now — and include pictures if you can. Again, for those, make sure your things are clean and well-lit so buyers don't feel deceived.

AD SPACE