

GARAGE SALES

Holding a COVID-Safe Sale

As another coronavirus wave sweeps the country, many places are finding themselves back behind masks and covered in hand sanitizer. But three years into this pandemic, people are starting to be less and less likely to hide in their homes, even with new variants spiking COVID cases.

The good news is that garage sales and yard sales are, generally speaking, an outdoor activity, which makes them safer than most. Here are some ways to keep your garage sale selling and shopping safe.

DON'T JUST CLEAN IT

You'd normally clean your merchandise before offering it for sale, because clean merchandise fetches more than dirty. But this time, take the extra step of wiping or spraying it down with a disinfectant approved to work against coronavirus. To find out if your cleaner is effective against coronavirus, check the EPA's List N for COVID-19 disinfectants.



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You can search the list by EPA registration number, active ingredient, use site, surface types (especially important if you're going to be disinfecting clothing or linens), contact time and more. You should also keep spray

disinfectant and disinfectant wipes handy during the sale to keep things clean as the sale goes on and people drift in and out of your sale.

STAY SOCIALLY DISTANT

Make your sale spread out

enough so that shoppers can remain socially distant while browsing, checking out and leaving. Set your tables far enough apart so that people can keep their distance while looking through things for sale. Mark spots for people to

stand while waiting to check out and put up signs reminding people to keep a safe distance between them and people not in their household. You might also ask people attending your sale to wear a mask and provide disposable masks for people who have soiled or forgotten their own.

GO CASHLESS

While cash will always be king at garage and yard sales, consider going at least partially cashless for your sale by using one of the countless payment apps out there. Venmo, CashApp, PayPal and other popular and safe services give you a QR code you can print out and place around your sale. Shoppers can just scan that code with their phone to pay you, no touching needed. You may also be able to use a proprietary app through your bank if third-party apps make you feel unsafe.

If you do handle cash, consider wearing gloves or, at the very least, frequently washing and sanitizing your hands. Only allow one or two people in your sale to handle money, both for a safety from COVID and a safety in general standpoint. Always have someone keep an eye on your hard currency and make frequent trips inside to deposit large sums away from the crowded sale.

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SHOPPING TIP

Take Precautions

If you feel particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, consider shopping early in the morning or late in the afternoon when sales are less crowded. Wear a mask and keep your distance. Wash your hands frequently and carry hand sanitizer, making sure to clean your hands after handling items for sale. Touch only what you plan to buy and take with you. Don't handle pens and other items and, as always, if you feel sick, stay home.

AD SPACE