

GARAGE SALES

Managing Your Money at Sales

Spending less is a popular New Year's resolution. Whether you're a buyer or a seller, you can get your financial house in order using garage sales.

BUYERS

Garage sales can help you save money by purchasing items you'll use second-hand, without the brand-new price tag. Clothes, toys and other kids items are great buys at garage sales. Also look for second-hand furniture, artwork and other items, especially if you're looking for retro or vintage items.

Collectibles are another way to earn money while garage sale shopping. Sharp buyers can keep an eye out for collectible items and turn a tidy profit by selling them in the right places. Lots of education is needed, though, as well as a shrewd negotiation skills and patience to turn a profit.

Buyers, you also want to watch your money while you're at the sales. Before you leave the house, set a budget and stick to it. It may help to bring cash with you so that you don't overspend. Also



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make a list of what you're looking for and don't deviate from it. Bringing a partner with you for accountability may help you stick to both list and budget.

SELLERS

Looking to pay off debt in the new year? Start a savings account? Make a tidy bundle and get started with those goals by holding a garage sale.

Sort your household items into three piles: trash, donate and sell. Sellable items are in good shape, like clothing with no stains or holes and games and puzzles with all their

pieces. Donation items are items that are in good shape but you may have too many of or are items that wouldn't sell well, such as books. Trash includes items that are in poor shape or missing too many pieces to donate or sell. Recycle what items of these as you can.

Price your items reasonably (hit up the internet or visit a few garage sales yourself to see what prices are like in your area). To make the most money, make sure your items are clean and displayed well, with big-ticket items clearly visible to people driving by. Advertise on social media and in the newspaper, where hardcore garage-salers get their leads, to get the most buyers.

On the day of the sale, make sure you have plenty of cash on hand to make change for your buyers. Have one person tending to your till and have them keep their eye on it at all times. If your change box gets too full, break and bring some money inside to a safe location. Also ask friends or family to help you keep an eye for items going missing at your sale. Consider using cashless options like Venmo, PayPal or Cash App to take some sales. It's contactless, so safer for buyers and sellers, and sends the money straight to your account.

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BUYER'S TIP

Bring the Cash You Plan to Spend

Never keep all your money in one pocket. Bring out only the cash you plan to use at that sale and keep the rest locked away for safety. You don't want to risk your entire budget falling out of your pocket or, worse, being stolen.

AD SPACE