# GARAGE SALES Outdoor Sales a Safe Activity

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that, if you're going to get together in a pandemic, it's best to do so outside. If the pandemic blues have you down, going garage saling — outside, of course — could be a fine way to do it.

### LOOK FOR SOCIALLY DISTANT SALES

Look for sales that are spread out, allowing you at least six feet between other shoppers. Wear your mask if you're concerned, if you live in an area with high transmission rates or if local ordinances require it. You should also, the CDC says, get vaccinated if you are eligible and your booster when you can and when advised by medical professionals. The Mayo Clinic says that you are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after you get a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

You'll want to avoid estate sales, consignment sales and other indoor sales unless you're comfortable with gathering indoors. The CDC says that gathering outdoors is still



the safest option.

### WHAT TO BRING

In addition to your mask, you should also bring hand

sanitizer and make a point to use it frequently and wash your hands when you can with soap and warm water. Only touch items that you plan to buy, and try to visit earlier in the morning when crowds or lighter or later in the evening. Bonus: You might get better deals then, too.

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You may also bring your own bags to carry things in. Put your newfound treasures in the trunk of your car or bed of your pickup until you can get them home and properly disinfect them.

### WHAT TO DO WITH WHAT YOU BUY

The CDC says that there is 99% reduction in infectious coronavirus can be expected under typical indoor environmental conditions within three days on common nonporous surfaces like stainless steel, plastic and glass. Other factors, too, can degrade the virus, meaning it's unlikely that you'll get coronavirus from anything you pick up at a garage sale.

However, if you're concerned about it, spray your items with a disinfectant product from the Environmental Protection Agency's List N. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully; some types of disinfectants, the CDC says, aren't effective unless used properly. Be careful with using some disinfectants on fabric surfaces and items such as clothing. If they contain bleach, the could damage your new finds.

Wash clothing and similar items in your usual detergent and follow the instructions on the tag. That should take care of any coronavirus, if there was any, that lingered.

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### **SELLER'S TIP**

### **Pandemic-Friendly Sale Tips**

In order to make your sales more pandemic-friendly, set your tables at least six feet apart and leave plenty of room for shoppers to browse. Leave space for people to shop, but also to move around your sale. Put out bottles of hand sanitizer and encourage your shoppers to use them. You can also put out disposable masks and encourage their use. Consider offering a discount to masked shoppers.

### AD SPACE