

# GARAGE SALES

## Things to Bring as a Successful Buyer

You're ready to graduate beyond the occasional garage sale buyer. Congratulations and welcome to the club! Keep reading for some tips and tricks to make a whole day of shopping fun.

### MAKE A MAP

Peruse the garage sale ads in the paper and plan out a route, referencing times, addresses and policies. Start on one side of town and move to another, or start near home and work your way out, or start away from home and work your way back. For bonus fun, plan out stops to eat or sights to see along the way.

Make sure you allow plenty of time for shopping at each sale and hit the sales advertising items you want first. Also leave time if you get lost.

**Pro tip:** Plan out bathroom stops, too.

### MAKE A LIST

Before you set out, make a list of things you'd like to purchase. Note any dimensions the items must be to fit in your space, especially furniture. Also note brands and materials that you'd like to



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find. Do some research if you're hunting for particular items. Look for model numbers or years of manufacture to avoid, recalls and other information.

### COME PREPARED

Have plenty of cash on hand. Don't expect individual sales or sellers to take cards. Also bring lots of water to keep hydrated. And you might

also consider bringing a folding basket clearly labeled with your name or a small cart, similarly labeled. Never cover the top of the basket or cart. If it zips or has a lid, make sure

you keep it open. A closed tote can make sellers nervous, and with good reason.

If you think you might buy fragile items, keep a roll of bubble wrap or newsprint in the car. You can wrap your items more securely as you go to the rest of your sales.

### DRESS FOR THE DAY

Wear comfortable clothing and good, sturdy shoes. Sales are sometimes held in people's yards, and that's not always the most even ground. Make sure you dress for the weather, too, including rain gear if it's necessary. Very few sales are completely indoors and climate controlled, though some may be under a roof and still on even if it rains. No matter where the sale is, you may have to park some ways away and carry your purchases back.

### MAKE SURE YOU CAN CARRY IT

Clean out your car for maximum storage space. Remove car seats, if you can, and lay seats flat to haul all your goodies. If you're in the market for furniture, bring a truck instead or at least have a few friends with trucks you can call if you find something you like. Bring a friend for some extra muscle in picking up heavy objects.

**More things to bring:** Bungee cords, twine or rope, and boxes to make sure your goodies ride safely.

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### SELLER'S TIP

#### Stock Up On Bags

Not everyone is going to be a serious garage sale shopper. Have bags on hand for people to carry their purchases home.

## AD SPACE