

# GARAGE SALES

## Beware of Recalls

When you're looking through things to sell in your garage sale, make sure you're looking for items in good condition, items that are in demand in your area, and, most importantly, items that have potentially been recalled. Here's what you need to know about recalled items and your garage sale.

### LIABILITY PROBLEMS

The Consumer Product Safety Commission says that, even if you don't know an item has been recalled and you sell it, you could be sued and have to pay damages or face other penalties. Watch for high-risk items in your sale. Consumer Reports warns against selling things like cribs, bike helmets and car seats. Some appliances may also be high risk, the magazine says. Buyers should also be aware and search for recalls before they take their new items home. If you're in doubt, Consumer Reports says, it's best just to not sell it at all.



### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT (2008)

This federal law, enforced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is what makes it illegal to sell recalled products. The agency doesn't have enough boots on the ground to enforce it across every yard sale, of

course, but if you sell a recalled item that cause damages, you leave yourself open to a lawsuit.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission also has jurisdiction over more than 15,000 kinds of consumer products used in and around the home. These products include appliances, furniture,

lighting, clothing, household goods, outdoor products, electronics, children's products, and sports and exercise equipment.

### RECENT RECALLS

There are product recalls nearly every day, some just for a handful of items and some giant recalls, like the one that

affected 29 million pieces of Ikea furniture in 2016. Some recent recalls affected:

- Serta Perfect Sleeper mattresses.
- Jayco motorhomes.
- WORX electric pressure washers.
- Pneumatic roller seats from Harbor Freight Tools.
- Kids Reiny Szn Mid-Cushion crew socks.
- Petzl lanyards with carabiners.
- Children's nightgowns from AllMeInGeld.
- Personal heaters from Geek Heat.
- Escalade Sports tennis tables.
- BrushX Hot Air Brushes.
- Zeno Infant Walkers.
- H&M children's sleepwear sets.
- Husqvarna robotic lawnmowers.
- BFG North Carolina chests of drawers.

You can protect yourself from recalled products by searching government databases such as the one from [Recalls.gov](https://www.recalls.gov). For vehicles and related equipment, turn to [safercare.gov](https://www.safercare.gov). Information about food products recalls comes from the USDA, FDA and [Foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov). You can sign up for free recall notice emails at [recalls.gov](https://www.recalls.gov). If you're reporting safety concerns, those sites are also a good place to start along with [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov).

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### SELLER'S TIP

#### Check All Products for Recalls

Avoid selling products from what the U.S. government calls its most commonly recalled product categories. These include child safety seats, cosmetics, food, medication, toys and cars. Check all the products that you buy for recalls before purchase. An open recall isn't necessarily a red flag against a purchase; a manufacturer may have an easy remedy for the issue. Ikea, for instance, passed out clips to keep their recalled furniture items from tipping over. Either way, it's good to educate yourself before putting down your cash.

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