

GARAGE SALES

Universal Studios Garage Sale

Even big theme parks have to declutter sometimes, and that includes Universal Studios in Orlando.

It holds an annual garage sale to get rid of leftover merchandise from special campaigns, seasons, events and more.

ACCESS

Universal Orlando Annual Passholders get special, early access to the sale, then it opens to the general public. The resort has, in the past, provided boxes for people to take stuff home in, but you might consider bringing reusable totes of your own for your loot. The sale is usually located in the team member parking garage off Vineland Road in Orlando. It's covered but still outdoors, so dress accordingly.

PRICING

Some items are marked way down while others are a percentage off. In previous years, special edition cups and character cups have gone for as little as \$1, plushes were 50-70% off, mugs and water bottles were 70% off, and jewelry was 50% off.

You can also find holiday-themed items (the sale has



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previously been slated for November, right into the Christmas season) and a discount, including stockings, home décor and more.

AVAILABLE CHARACTERS

If you're unfamiliar with

what characters are associated with Universal Studios, think fan favorites like Harry Potter, the Marvel universe, Fast and the Furious, Minions, Shrek, Spongebob, Jurassic Park and more. You can also find Universal Studios-themed merchandise such as hats and tees,

toys, drinkware and party goods.

Remember that many themed or limited edition theme park goodies become collector's items in time, so choose wisely. Then again, some don't, but could earn you some fantastic bragging rights

considering the deep discounts available. Who knows that you didn't run that 5K? No one, that's who.

FOOD

In the past, even food has been discounted at the Universal garage sale. Ice creams were going for around \$1, which if you know theme park pricing, is a steal.

UNIVERSAL ISN'T ALONE

While other theme parks in the Orlando area aren't holding a garage sale (yet), there are similar sales around the country. The Buffalo Bills, for instance, holds a merchandise garage sale to benefit the Bills Foundation. Former Minnesota Vikings head coach Bud Grant once held an annual garage sale of his merchandise. The Chicago White Sox, Tampa Bay Rays and Arizona Diamondbacks are among baseball teams that also hold sales.

Some museums and art galleries also hold annual garage sales. Look for sales at places such as the National Electronics Museum, Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, the Miniature Museum of Greater St. Louis, Delta Flight Museum and the University of Rochester Art & Treasures Sale.

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BUYER'S TIP

Consider an Annual Pass

For the hardcore collector, springing for the annual pass might be worth it for the early look you get before the Universal sale opens to the public. Only team members get to go earlier, and, after the sale, you can use your pass for a day in Universal Studios Florida and Universal's Islands of Adventure. Florida residents get a discount and all plans have flexible payment options. The top-of-the-line premier pass also features Universal Express and special parking privileges.

AD SPACE