

# GARAGE SALES

## Selling Your Stuff Online

In addition to having an in-person sale, you may get a little more cash by picking out certain items to sell online. There are a lot of horror stories about getting scammed, but armed with a little knowledge, you can earn a bundle.

### PLACES TO SELL

When you're looking for places to sell, pay attention to the selling fees. They are usually a percentage of the final price, or, if you have more to sell, you could opt for a different fee structure that's based on the number of sales or the number of items listed.

However, those fees also cover things like accepting credit cards and marketing that you might not be able to do on your own.

NerdWallet suggests these nine sites to get you started.

- **Amazon:** You can buy anything here, and you can sell it, too.

- **eBay:** The classic online auction site. Bidders can run up the price and you can also set a reserve, or minimum price.

- **Bonanza:** This site offers



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extra advertising for an extra fee.

- **eBid:** This is eBay competitor from the U.K. offers a subscription plan if you plan on selling over time.

- **Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, Letgo:** These are all local-based apps that don't take a cut of your sale.

However, you're responsible with meeting up with the buyer, negotiating price and handling all the dirty work.

- **Poshmark:** Great if you're selling clothing, shoes and

accessories.

- **Ruby Lane:** This site is for more serious antique and vintage sellers. Fees are steep, but so are the prices.

- **Etsy:** A great site if you've got a handmade or vintage collection.

- **Swappa, Glyde and Gazelle:** Here ye, electronics buffs. These sites give you a quote on your used gear and let you trade it in for cash. You may get less than you would on eBay, but you'd get it faster.

### STAYING SAFE WHEN SELLING ONLINE

If you're using a completely online platform, you aren't in as much physical danger. But you open yourself up to online fraud. If you're meeting in person for cash, your bank accounts are probably safe, but your person may not be. Stay safe with these tips.

When doing business online:

- Stick with reputable sites. These sites have a lot of protections built in to save both

buyer and seller a lot of grief. Sellers, look for highly rated buyers. Buyers, look for highly rated sellers. Both of you, look for the other party to be responsive to questions about the item.

- Protect your passwords. Use secure passwords that are different on each platform.

- Be honest. Take well-lit pictures that may include any flaws the items may have. Write an easily read and truthful description, and research shipping prices and timelines carefully.

### WHEN DOING BUSINESS IN PERSON:

Be careful where you meet. If possible, don't let a buyer come to your home. Many police departments have special meet-up places outside of their stations. If your local department doesn't or if you can't meet there, choose a well-lit public place during or close to normal business hours. If you can, have someone come with you. If you're by yourself, make sure someone knows where you are.

Don't accept checks. Take cash only or payment via a guaranteed app. Never turn over an item without payment.

Check the merchandise. If you're a buyer, check the merchandise before the seller leaves. Make sure it works as advertised and beware a buyer that won't give you the chance to check.



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### BUYER'S TIP

#### Check Seller Sites for Deals

The sites mentioned above weren't just for sellers. Check some of them out for good deals.

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