

# GARAGE SALES

## Sending it to Consignment

Auctions, estate sales and big online sales are great if you have a lot of stuff, but if you have certain items and only a few, there's another option for you, and that's the consignment shop.

### WHAT IS A CONSIGNMENT SHOP?

A consignment shop sells your items for a portion of the proceeds. Most consignment shops are on a theme, such as antiques, books, clothing — especially maternity or children's clothing, furniture and musical instruments. You might also find pop-up consignment shops for things like children's toys or athletic gear.

### HOW TO CONSIGN

Here are the basics. Bring in clean items in good shape. If you have clothes, make sure they don't have stains, rips or tears and are still reasonably in style and season. If you have toys, make sure you have all the pieces. If you have children's or athletic gear, make sure it's working and not recalled.

Next, before you go in, check with each local store you plan to visit. Each store



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has its own policies, and you need to adhere to them to get the most for your items. For instance, a clothing consignment may want all the items pressed and on hangers, while another clothing consignment may want each item folded.

Also look at their policies

when it comes to paying out and consignment times. Most shops offer a 30-day, 60-day and 90-day runs with an option to discount after for a quick sale. Compare shops' payouts and consignment times before making a final decision, and bear in mind

that those long sale times mean this isn't the time to earn a quick buck. Selling in these shops may take longer, but a dedicated shop with buyers who know what they're looking for could mean you get more money for your items.

### GREAT FOR SHOPPING

Consignment stores aren't just great for selling. They're also an awesome place to score some great deals, especially if you've got growing children or are into vintage or luxury goods. Some stores may allow you to consign and give you slightly more in store credit than they would in a straight payout. And if you're consigning and buying, you've seen how tough the owner is on their items, so you can buy with confidence.

### WHAT IF IT DOESN'T SELL?

Horrors! If the item is still in good shape, you may want to try selling it on a local marketplace like Facebook, an app like Letgo or in the classifieds. Remember to practice selling safety, like only taking cash or a trusted payment app, and meeting in a public place.

If you're ready to give up completely, get your things ready to donate. First, pick a charity or thrift shop. If you have athletic gear or an abundance of toys, consider a women's shelter or a nonprofit that caters to giving children a safe place to live, study or play. Some of these organizations may even pick it up for you. Once you've donated, make sure you get a receipt for tax purposes so you get something out of it.

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### SELLER'S TIP

#### Compare Policies

Compare shop policies to make sure you're getting top dollar. You'll also want to weigh consignment periods and choose the timeline that works best for you and your budget.

## AD SPACE