

GARAGE SALES

Holiday Sales Year-Round

This year, make the most wonderful time of the year garage sale season. Hit up sales while people are spring cleaning, moving house or just getting rid of extra clutter to find great deals on Christmas and other holiday décor.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas, of course, is the granddaddy of them all when it comes to holiday décor. Look for things like artificial trees, ornaments, outdoor décor, lights and more at steep discounts over buying new. There are some things to keep in mind when buying used Christmas décor, however. Keep a sharp eye out for anything that may have been recalled or anything with exposed wiring or worn plugs. Christmas decorations can be a leading cause of holiday house fires.

If the decorations you spot are lighted, ask the seller to plug it in so you can make sure it works properly. Older sets of lights may be particularly diffi-



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cult to replace a single bulb or a fuse in since many newer sets use LEDs and other energy-saving technology.

IT'S FALL, Y'ALL

Not really, but you can stock up on some great fall or Halloween décor at scary good

prices by shopping garage sales. Look for florals, wreaths and plenty of faux ghosts and goblins at lower prices than you'd find even after the holiday in stores.

Because fall décor can include lots of fabric (think silk florals), check everything

carefully for damage such as dry rot, mold and mildew or damage from pests. Make sure it's something you can repair and factor it into the pricing before you take it home.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Declare independence from

paying full price for Fourth of July décor this year. Don't just look for July Fourth décor in particular. Look for anything patriotic that you can get creative with decorating. This may include fabrics or anything with an Americana theme, such as baseball goods or barbecue/picnic items. Anything summer-themed can also work, especially if you're throwing a pool party or doing anything else outdoors.

NEW YEAR'S

Party like it's 1999 with decorations from 1999 — as long as they're in good shape. Of course, you should eschew any New Year's décor marked with years of yore, but anything generic is fair game. Also look for things like champagne flutes, ice buckets and punch bowls that could help you throw a glam party no matter the time of year. Black and gold are popular colors for New Year's parties; also look for anything glam or glittery.

Another thing to keep an eye out for is vintage fashion for your next shindig, be it New Year's or another after-5 bash. Remember that sizing may be different today than it was, so ask the seller if they have a place where you can try it on.

