

GARAGE SALES

Home Improvement Items

Spring is the time for sprucing up, and many shoppers looking to hit up a garage or yard sale are looking for ways to renew and refresh their own homes.

This is a great time of year to clear out the clutter, especially if some of that clutter are items other people might use in their own spring cleaning.

TOOLS

If you've got three hammers, six wrenches and a whole case of widgets that you don't even know what to do with, it's time for a tool sale. Garage and yard sales are great places to clear out stashes of tools. Remember to advertise tools in your sales ads and have a separate section for them, laid out, cleaned and ready for use.

Power tools and kits should have all their accessories and you should have a power cord ready so that prospective buyers can make sure the tools work as advertised. If you're missing pieces or something doesn't work properly, take that into account with the pricing and be upfront with



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your potential buyers. Some buyers, particularly those that are handy and on a budget, may still be interested.

HOME IMPROVEMENT GOODS

Ah, the ghosts of projects

past. If you've got gallons of paint, piles of old hardware, maybe a kitchen sink or two laying around, the garage sale is the place for it. Make sure paint is still good (separated is OK; most paint stores will reshake paint for free) and put

a dollop of the paint on the lid so that potential buyers can see the color. Any used paint should be marked very cheaply. With other things, such as hardware or any unused product, you can use the rule of a third of retail price.

Remember to advertise tools in your sales ads and have a separate section for them.

If your home improvement goods don't sell or you just want to be rid of them, you can donate them to retail stores such as Habitat for Humanity's ReStores or other thrift stores. Just make sure the store is set up to take items such as paint before you drop them off. If you need to dispose of paint or other household chemicals, many cities and counties hold household chemical disposal days where you can get rid of it safely for a low fee or even free.

HOME DÉCOR AND FURNITURE

Part of refreshing a look might also involve new decorations or furnishings. Keep an eye out in garage sales for pieces that would match your decorating plan or your planned decorating. Furniture should be in good condition or easily repairable, or priced accordingly. Look for solid wood pieces that you can refurnish to your liking. Sometimes, a fresh color and new hardware is all it takes to breathe new life into a tired piece of furniture — and into your room.

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BUYER'S TIP

Make Sure Tools Work

Check to make sure all tools work or are easily fixed and come with the accessories you need for your projects. Ask sellers to run an extension cord so that you can test out power tools or to show you that rechargeable batteries can hold a charge before paying up.

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