

# GARAGE SALES

## Old Tech: Worth It or Junk

It seems like no sooner than we buy one fancy new electronic device than the next generation is out there with even more features than the one we've just purchased. The average cellphone user replaces their phone every 18 months and 300 million computers and 1 billion cell phones are produced globally every year, says The World Counts, an e-waste advocacy group. That tech stacks up quickly, and a lot of it ends up in our garage sales.

### WHAT'S WORTH IT

Some old tech is actually pretty valuable. Retro gaming consoles and old hit games are having a moment, so if you've got one in good working order



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with a few accessories, you can fetch a decent amount of money.

Flipsy says that consoles such as the Nintendo GameCube, PS2 and the first Xbox tend to go for around \$40-\$60, while some rare ver-

sions can net thousands. You might be looking at more money if your console is a special edition or is particularly rare.

If you have a very old television set, say in one of the unique shapes from the 1950s

and 1960s, you can get a handful of Benjamins back from the sale. On the other hand, if you've got a square, black 1990s vintage, be prepared to get very little or nothing at all for it. Do a little research online before your sale to

determine the best value.

Just a few years ago, vintage iPods were in the news when they started appearing on auction sites for thousands. One iPod first generation listed on eBay for \$100,000. Just remember that not all listings fetch what they're listed for and that just because it says it's rare doesn't mean it is. Tech columnist Kim Komando warns that before you go listing your old iPod for the value of a starter home in some places that a more reasonable offer is around \$100, unless you happened to have gotten one of those coveted new iPods and never even took it out of the shrink wrap.

### WHAT'S NOT

Speaking of MP3 players, the iPod's competitor, the Microsoft Zune, is worth about \$40. No cashing in on nostalgia there. Also probably not worth the effort of selling it are any items that are broken or in terrible condition. You also want to beware the PC game.

Many manufacturers included a code that ties the game to a single user. Without that code, your CD is a fancy drink coaster. Some old cell phones may also be better off in the recycle bin. TechRadar says that the once supercool Motorola Razr is worth a paltry \$20.

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### BUYER'S TIP

#### Do A Quality Check

No matter what you're buying at a garage sale, if it has a plug, plug it in and make sure it works. You may not be able to do that with things like game cartridges and CDs, so negotiate the price accordingly. Also make sure that consoles and other items have all of their accessories and that all of those work, too. Nothing like settling in for a good round of Duck Hunt only to find the plastic gun is missing.

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