

# GARAGE SALES

## Does your Sale Need a Permit?

The short answer to that question is maybe. It all starts by knowing your local rules and regulations. Your county courthouse can usually help.

Bear in mind that there may also be local rules regarding crowds and gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic to be aware of. So don't just ask about out garage sales; make sure all your bases are covered.

### EXAMPLES OF GARAGE SALE REGULATIONS

Municipalities require permitting for several reasons, including to control parking and gatherings, prevent illegal stores and sales, and prevent littering of garage sale signs.

In Winter Springs, Florida, for example, garage sale permits are free, but they do outline several rules regarding signage. A garage sale sign is permitted on the sale premises only, so no signs leading to your neighborhood. The sign must be small, not exceeding six square feet in area, and it must be removed at the end of the sale.



In Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, outside of New Orleans, permitting is aimed at both litter and illegal sales. Permits cost a \$10 adminis-

trative fee and only two sales can be held at a particular location in any 12-month period. No signs are allowed on telephone poles, boule-

wards or on any rights-of-way, and sale hours are set from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sales can only last two days, and the permit must be posted during

the sale.

### FINES

Don't hold a sale without a permit if one is required. The fines can be steep.

Miami Beach, for example, can fine up to \$500 per offense for disobeying the city's rules on garage sales. Permits, meanwhile, are a mere \$20. The rules in that city include the type of merchandise offered (used), the amount of area a sale may take up (an enclosed area or 25% or less of the total yard area), and signage (no more than two signs no larger than 12 inches by 18 inches).

Also check with your homeowners association for their own garage sale rules. Depending on your agreement, it could also levy an unpleasant fine.

### COVID-19 GUIDELINES

In addition to the usual regulations about signage and length of sale, the pandemic means there may also be additional rules about gatherings. Long Beach, California, says there must be six feet between people, even if they're wearing face coverings. High-touch surfaces should be regularly cleaned. Avoid eating and drinking in public. Identify where lines may form, marking six-foot increments to show people where they should stand.

© ADOBE STOCK

# GARAGE SALES



© ADOBE STOCK

## Does your Sale Need a Permit?

The short answer to that question is maybe. It all starts by knowing your local rules and regulations. Your county courthouse can usually help.

Bear in mind that there may also be local rules regarding crowds and gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic to be aware of. So don't just ask about out garage sales; make sure all your bases are covered.

### EXAMPLES OF GARAGE SALE REGULATIONS

Municipalities require permitting for several reasons, including to control parking and gatherings, prevent illegal stores and sales, and prevent littering of garage sale signs.

In Winter Springs, Florida, for example, garage sale permits are free, but they do outline several rules regarding signage. A garage sale sign is permitted on the sale premises only, so no signs leading to your neighborhood. The sign must be small, not exceeding six square feet in area, and it must be removed at the end of the sale.

In Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, outside of New Orleans, permitting is aimed at both litter and illegal sales. Permits cost a \$10 administrative fee and only two sales can be held at a

particular location in any 12-month period. No signs are allowed on telephone poles, boulevards or on any rights-of-way, and sale hours are set from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sales can only last two days, and the permit must be posted during the sale.

### FINES

Don't hold a sale without a permit if one is required. The fines can be steep.

Miami Beach, for example, can fine up to \$500 per offense for disobeying the city's rules on garage sales. Permits, meanwhile, are a mere \$20. The rules in that city include the type of merchandise offered (used), the amount of area a sale may take up (an enclosed area or 25% or less of the total yard area), and signage (no more

than two signs no larger than 12 inches by 18 inches).

Also check with your homeowners association for their own garage sale rules. Depending on your agreement, it could also levy an unpleasant fine.

### COVID-19 GUIDELINES

In addition to the usual regulations about signage and length of sale, the pandemic means there may also be additional rules about gatherings. Long Beach, California, says there must be six feet between people, even if they're wearing face coverings. High-touch surfaces should be regularly cleaned. Avoid eating and drinking in public. Identify where lines may form, marking six-foot increments to show people where they should stand.

### COVID-19 Precautions

Even if your municipality doesn't require COVID-19 precautions, take them anyway to make your buyers feel more safe (and maybe spend more money). Place your tables with plenty of distance so that people don't bunch up and can browse safely. Put out bottles of hand sanitizer for shoppers' use and consider offering free face masks if people don't have one. If you can, hold your sale outdoors or open as many windows and doors as you safely can.

## AD SPACE