

# GARAGE SALES

## Furnishing your First Place

With a new school year just around the corner, a whole new generation is heading off to college and, in many instances, getting ready to move into their very first place on their own.

Garage sales are a great way to find home furnishings to deck out that new pad in style. Keep reading for hints on how to find the best furniture, kitchen goods and more.

### THE BASICS

Before hitting the garage sale trail, there are a few things you should plan for. Know the measurements, if you have them, of your new home. That way, you can make educated decisions about that couch or dresser. You should also bring:

- A tape measure.
- A notepad and pencil.
- A flashlight.
- A truck and some strong help.

The tape measure is so that you can measure out the treasures you find to make sure they'll fit. The notepad and pencil is for making calculations, jotting down notes on a piece or drawing out a room to



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make sure things fit. The flashlight for inspecting the pieces you're thinking about buying, particularly couches, where you want to check that the frame is in good shape. And the truck and help are for loading your goodies to take home. Also make sure you have a safe and secure place to store things until moving day.

### FURNITURE

Some college apartments come fully or partially fur-

nished. If you aren't in one of those, you'll want to find a solid sofa — remember that solid is key, an ugly print can be covered, a broken frame can't. You'll also need a chair or two, a good bed, a dresser for your clothes, a desk for study sessions and maybe a table. Nightstands are a helpful touch, too, and maybe some outdoor furniture if your place has a porch or patio. Bookshelves are always useful.

Make a list of what you're looking for and peruse the garage sale ads to find some likely sales. Plan out a route that involves those sales, plus pit stops for refreshments and maybe dropping things off for storage if you need to.

### HOME GOODS

Also keep an eye out for things like lamps and décor, particularly art pieces or wall decor. If you need some rugs, garage sales are a great place

to find gently used rugs. You'll also need some dishes, look for a set of at least four complete place settings, including a dinner plate, salad plate and bowl, and silverware. Also look for cups, mixing bowls, pots and pans, and kitchen utensil sets. You may also find piles of towels or bed linens. Make sure they are in great condition and free from stains, tears or rips. Wash them as soon as you get home in hot water.

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### SELLER'S TIP

#### Target Buyers with Specific Listings

If you have a lot of items you think could outfit a college apartment, include that in your ad and be specific. For instance, say that you have a matching couch and loveseat that would be perfect for a first place, and price it according to a struggling student budget. Don't expect someone just striking out on their own to pay full freight.

## AD SPACE