

GARAGE SALES

Outfitting a First Apartment

Parents across the country are getting their former high schoolers ready to move off to college, in many cases to their first home by themselves.

Garage sales are a great place to get everything your teen needs to set up their first place on a shoestring. And with retro and vintage décor being more popular than ever, they can be on trend and on budget.

KITCHEN

Let's start in the kitchen. Hit up garage sales with an eye toward kitchen basics such as cookware, bakeware, cutlery and more. You should aim for a dinnerware service for four to six people, meaning four to six pieces each of knives, forks and spoons, dinner plates, salad plates, bowls and cups.

You should also have a couple of good food prep knives, a cutting board (not wooden), a skillet and a saucepan. Keep an eye open for a spatula, a cooking spoon, a whisk, tongs, can opener, pizza cutter and



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other basics as well. Measuring cups, measuring spoons and a couple of mugs and mixing bowls can round out the kitchen.

You can also find small appliances aplenty at many garage sales, including toasters, coffee pots, countertop ovens, can openers and more. Make sure these items

are in good working order (ask the seller if you can plug them in) and cleaned well before you buy. If it's missing accessories, make sure you can buy them online or otherwise replace them.

FURNITURE

Garage sales are a great place to score budget furni-

ture. Measure your space before shopping so you know what will fit. It may also be helpful to sketch a layout on a piece of paper to take with you.

Once you find the perfect couch, chair or table, measure each part to make sure it will go in the space. As you work, check it over for any

dings, dents, scratches or missing pieces, including hardware. Screws and bolts may be easy to replace with a little work, and even deep scratches can be easily and quickly fixed.

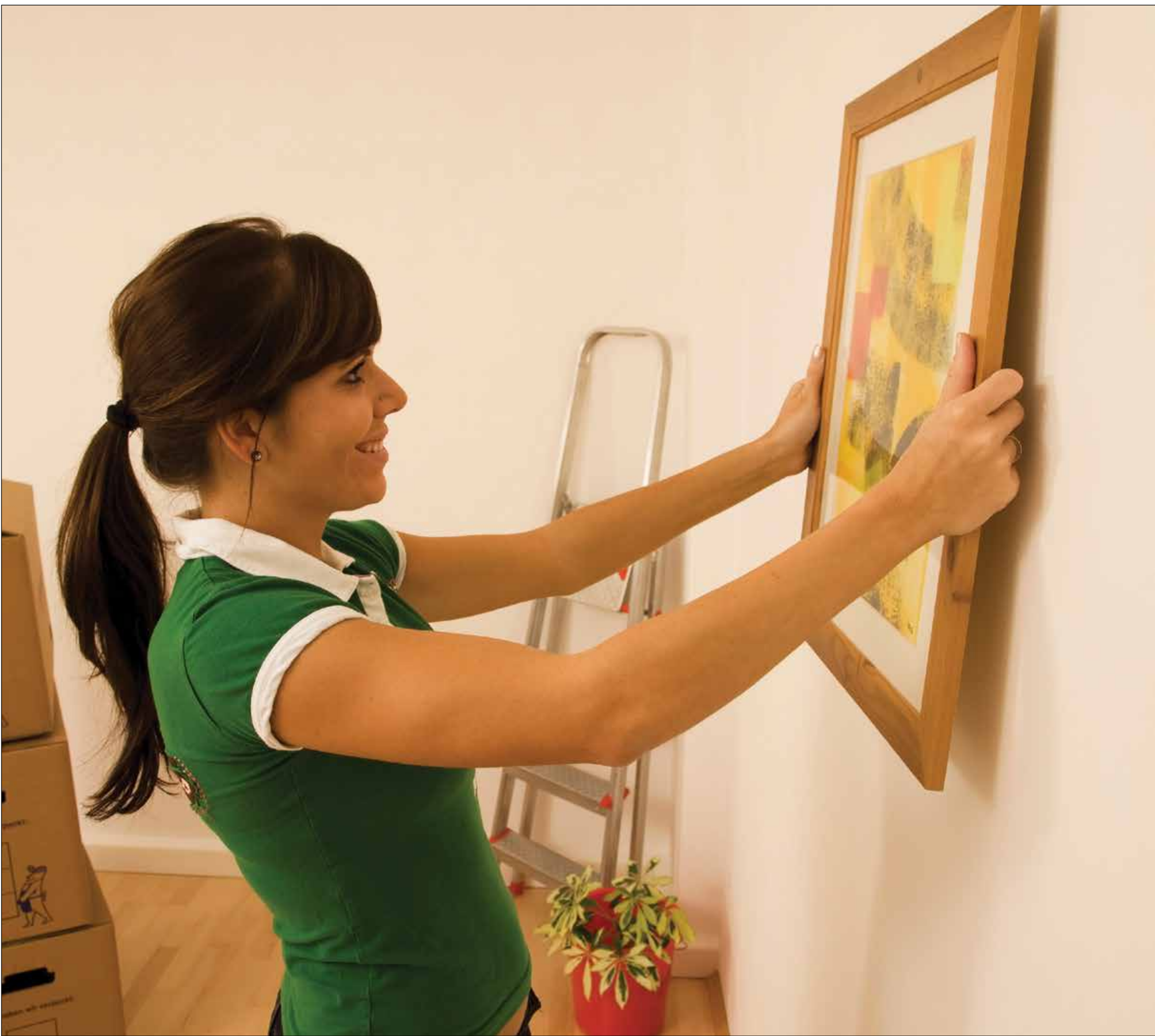
If you plan to repaint, you can ignore surface imperfections, but pay attention to make sure each piece is fully functional. For instance, are beds solid and do drawers open and close easily? Do shelves that are supposed to move move freely?

TOOLS

Setting up a new place means that you should have a toolkit handy to make basic repairs around the house. Garage sales, particularly those sales that are liquidating estates or downsizing a home, can be full of tools for just pennies on the dollar.

Look for a large tool box then fill it with screwdrivers (both flat and Phillips head), a good hammer, a tape measure, pliers, a utility knife, wrenches that adjust, a level, a ruler or other straight edge, a putty knife, a flashlight, a file, personal protective gear such as safety glasses, clamps, and a grease gun. Also consider an extension cord and power tools such as a drill, circular saw and sander.

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SELLER'S TIP

Bundle tools and kitchen goods together

Consider assembling tools and kitchen goods into kits for easy and quick shopping. These bundles will attract more buyers and may also lead them to pick up a few more things on the way out. As the shopper sees it, one kit with 15 items is only one item, so they may be tempted to buy more than they would if they were looking on their own.

AD SPACE