

# GARAGE SALES

## Top Garage Sale Bargains

We've all heard the story of someone finding an original copy of the Declaration of Independence behind a garage sale painting or a Mickey Mantle rookie card in a box of magazines. Those are needles in a haystack, but there are some good bargains to be had if you know where to look.

### BOOKS

While you shouldn't just buy a big box of books hoping for a rare first-edition, you can find some lightly used books in great condition for a low price at garage sales. This is great if you collect all the works by a certain author or if you're just looking for some new books for cheap.

### BOARD GAMES AND TOYS

Garage sales are a wonderland for board games, puzzles and toys. Before buying, check for recalls, missing pieces, broken parts and



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more. Garage sale games are great for stocking the family game cabinet or packing up to take on a vacation.

### FURNITURE

If you have a college student moving into their first apartment or otherwise have to furnish a space on a tight

budget, garage sales are going to be a gold mine. Look for lightly used furniture at dramatically lower prices than in stores. Check for things like broken sofa or bed frames, musty or pet odors, holes, tears, scratches, and stuck drawers. Refinishing a piece with great bones is easier

than ever these days, so keep an eye out for those diamonds in the rough.

### CLOTHES

Kids' clothes are a great garage sale bargain. Children grow fast and blow through sizes, so if you can find lightly used clothing in good shape,

go for it. You'll save big over buying new and won't be too worried when it comes back covered in mud and paint.

### KITCHEN AND DINING

Old plates, baking dishes, cookie sheets and other utensils are big parts of most garage sales. Look for tough, hardy pieces like sturdy Corelle and cast iron skillets. Even if those skillets are rusty, a little elbow grease and seasoning can bring them back to their former, all-purpose glory.

### HOME FURNISHINGS AND DECOR

One family's trash is another one's treasure. Keep an eye out for lamps, wall art, paintings and more that will suit your decor. Also remember that some items are just a fresh coat of paint away from glorious.

### SPORTS AND HOBBY EQUIPMENT

Last year's baseball or soccer equipment can get new life, as can old bikes, exercise equipment, weight sets and hobby items, like yarn, scrapbooking supplies and model kits. Look through and, of course, make sure everything is in good condition. If you're fairly handy, you may be able to make minor repairs and negotiate the price down accordingly.



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### BUYER’S TIP

#### Test Items you’re Interested In

If the item you’ve got your eye on is electric, ask the seller if you can plug it in to make sure everything works. A responsible seller may have one or more extension cords running out to the sale area just for this purpose. Make sure all settings and buttons work as they should.

# AD SPACE