

GARAGE SALES

How Much Does It Cost?

Garage sales are meant to make you money. But sometimes, to make money, you have to spend a little.

Here are some costs to consider while you're planning your garage sale.

PERMITTING

Some cities or counties may require garage sellers to get a permit before holding their sale. While in some municipalities this permit just costs you the paperwork, other places charge a small fee. In South Miami, Florida, for example, the fee is \$40, while in Crowley, Texas, it's just \$5. If you don't get a permit in a place that requires it, be prepared to pay a fine that will be much more than the cost of the permit in the first place.

ADVERTISING

Once you've got your date set, it's time to let people know about your sale. Making and posting signs (where acceptable) is a pretty low-cost way to get the word out. It just costs you printer ink and paper.

You can also take out an ad in the local newspaper. Many



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experienced garage sale shoppers use the paper's listings to plan out their weekend shop-

ping spree. Some papers charge per line of advertising while others offer a set listing

price.

Make sure to include your address, hours of the sale, and

some of the things you're going to be offering. Furniture, children's clothing and toys are especially big draws that deserve a mention.

Advertising on social media is usually free, though there may be an additional charge to get your ad out to more people. To draw more social shoppers, make sure to include plenty of well-lit, attractive pictures of your merchandise and be prepared to quickly and politely answer people's questions online.

You should include the same information as you would on a sign or a print ad.

SUPPLIES

You'll need things like stickers for price tags, a good sturdy pen to mark the prices and, depending on what you're offering, some extra cleaning supplies to get everything looking its best. You may also need to lay out cash to rent or buy folding tables to display your products on.

You can ask to borrow friends' or family members' tables, or even borrow some from a local school or house of worship for a lower cost than buying outright. Lastly, you will need a cash box stocked with plenty of \$5 and \$1 bills as well as loose change to make change for your buyers.

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SELLER'S TIP

Signs: Be legible and follow the rules

Making signs can be a great way to lure shoppers into your sale. You can make signs out of posterboard or buy ready-made garage sale signs that you just ink your address on. Either way, make sure they are easily legible for passers-by and that you post them in places that don't interfere with traffic and where it's legal to put signage. If you put your sign up illegally, remember it tells officials exactly where to go to not only get a good deal on your gently used items, but also to issue you a ticket for littering or violating other city ordinances.

AD SPACE