

GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale Safety

Garage sales are generally safe and fun ways to clear out some clutter and make some extra cash. But there are some things you need to be aware of when hosting a sale, especially if it's at your home, business or other property.

LOCK IT UP

When crowds of shoppers descend on your sale, it can be difficult to keep an eye on everything. Lock up valuable items that aren't for sale and don't allow people in your home or in other buildings that aren't actively part of the sale. Have helpers stationed throughout the sale, especially if it's spread out over multiple rooms or a large area, not only to keep an eye on your merchandise but also watch for crowding and other liability issues.

Never let anyone into your home, even if it's just to use the bathroom. Instead, have a list ready of the nearest public restrooms where people can go and reroute them there



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instead. Keep pets locked away safely and don't let them out to greet shoppers.

WATCH THE WEATHER

Keep an eye to the sky and

on the thermometer. If it's hot out, make sure you have shade available and plenty of cool water to keep both you and your shoppers hydrated. Rotate with helpers to make

sure everyone keeps their body temperatures in the safe zone and keep a close eye on shoppers and helpers alike for signs of overexertion.

Have a plan if severe weather threatens and be ready to pick up your merchandise as soon as clouds start to gather. Tie down canopies, tents and other shade items and have helpers ready to move them if the wind picks up.

LIABILITY ISSUES

Before you set up your sale, make sure your area is free of roots, loose gravel or pavers and any other obstructions that unwary shoppers can trip and fall on. Rope off any steps or make sure they're clearly marked for safety. As you set up your sale, be mindful of heavy or sharp items. Keep them out of reach of little hands and also remember to place them in areas where they aren't likely to fall over.

MANAGING MONEY

Always have a responsible adult — or better yet, two — at the cash till. Kids can make change, but always have an adult with them while they're handling money. Don't accept personal checks, but do offer online payment options such as Venmo, CashApp or even paying over social media networks. That cuts the cash out altogether and gives your shoppers another option for paying.

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BUYER'S TIP

Tips for Keeping Every Sale Safe

Do your part to keep every sale safe by being careful as you browse the aisles of a sale. Watch for errant merchandise, roots in a yard and other trip hazards. Be careful when handling merchandise and don't put things back where they might fall over. Only carry enough cash with you to purchase the items you plan to purchase from that sale. Put it in a pocket where you can keep a close eye on it and leave the rest of your cash in a safe place.

AD SPACE