

GARAGE SALES

Organize a Community Sale

If you'd like to have a garage sale but don't have the space, or if you just want to get your neighbors together to make some cash, consider organizing a community garage sale.

Community garage sales come in many forms. It could involve neighbors in a subdivision drawing the attention of customers by coordinating the dates of their sales, apartment residents getting together to sell their wares in a common space, or renting out a public space where any member of a community can set up tables and bring their goods for sale.

Community garage sales have benefits for both buyers and sellers. One sale means each individual seller has less advertising work to do, as well as built-in advice and support from fellow sellers. For garage sale shoppers, they're all about more bang for their buck, so they're more likely to put your sale on their list if they know they can hit one spot and shop from several sellers.

APARTMENT SALES

Apartment living likely means you don't have a garage



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in which to host a garage sale. But it doesn't mean you don't have clothing, home goods, hobby equipment and more hanging around that you wouldn't mind selling for some quick cash. If your neighbors feel the same, approach the management of your apartment complex about making space available for a sale. This could be a parking lot, a community center or a courtyard — whatever common space your complex has available. This type of event could be seen by the apartment management company as a way to garner publicity for themselves, so they

might even help out with advertising.

SUBDIVISION SALES

In many subdivisions, sellers band together once a year to coordinate their sales. In some neighborhoods, homeowners' association fees are even used to cover advertising. If your subdivision doesn't already have a sale, start the tradition on your own. Paper your neighborhood with flyers about the idea, or hit the neighborhood social media page. Ask how many homeowners would participate, and propose some dates for the sale. Also reach out to those

who are interested about getting some help with organizing the sales. You will need to advertise both in print and online, as well as post signs and make maps of participating homes in the neighborhood. If you hold a sale each year, your neighbors might even start to look forward to the annual event.

PUBLIC SALE

Contact your park district or city officials about any public space that might be available for a public sale. The venue would provide space for people to set up tables to display their goods. Each seller han-

SELLER TIPS

Plan smart

Trulia.com's blog urges anyone organizing a community garage sale to be smart with planning. You don't want to organize a sale during a conflicting event, such as a parade or fair. Check your town's online events calendar to be sure you've picked a workable date. Read more tips from Trulia at <https://bit.ly/2t2n4BN>.

dles his own sales and keeps track of his own cash. You will need to set some rules about what kinds of goods can be sold to prevent the issue of inappropriate or unsafe items.

In areas that see snow during the winter, a good time to hold this sale is during the winter, when an outdoor sale isn't possible. Winter is a great time to take a look around the basement, the garage, the tops of closets or under beds for unused items that are still hanging around.

When organizing any of these types of sales, don't forget to get a permit, if required by local ordinance. This is usually issued by the city.

You should also consider arranging for a charity to pick up unsold items.

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