

# GARAGE SALES

## Sales and the Environment

You know that planning your garage sale may make you a few bucks. You may also be helping to save the planet.

By selling and buying used items, you're lowering the impact of what you consume. New goods consume more natural resources, but buying used items not only uses the resources already in rotation but also keeps them out of the landfill.

### CLOTHING

In 2015, Americans tossed out more than 21 billion pounds of clothing and textiles, the EPA says, a steep increase from the 4.6 billion pounds we threw away in 1980. That alarming rise in trashy clothing is, in part, fueled by cheap, disposable fast-fashion clothing, Scientific American says.

"The major impact of the industry comes from ever and fast-increasing clothing consumption that has further accelerated with fast fashion since the 2000s," Elena Karpova, a textiles scientist at Iowa State University, told the magazine.

By keeping clothing in cir-



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culation longer, we keep those items out of the trash bins. As garage sellers, make sure that the clothing you offer is clean and well-presented. Consider bundling your clothing in outfits on hangers for display. Try not to offer items that are ripped or stained (an excep-

tion is for children's play clothes).

### FURNITURE

Repurposing used furniture is another good way to lessen your impact on the environment. A fresh coat of paint and new hardware can

give new life to dated pieces. Some older pieces may be of better quality than what's sold in stores today, using hardwoods throughout instead of particle board or cheaper materials. Look for quality pieces that are solid wood throughout with little

to no damage. Keep an eye out for things like peeling veneers, though even that isn't a death knell for an otherwise well-made piece.

### DISHES AND KITCHENWARE

Not only are vintage dishes having a moment right now, but you can often get a full set at a fraction of the cost of new. Going with a hodge-podge of complimentary but not matching dishes is also a fun, funky option that can keep those plates, dishes and bakeware out of the 7,550,000 tons of glass that the EPA says ends up in U.S. landfills every year. Check the plate stamp on the objects to make sure what you're buying is food-safe before using it, and remember to give everything a good wash (or even bleach) before using it for your family.

### SEASONAL DECOR

Holiday decor is a great thing to buy at thrift stores. You can even repurpose some holiday décor from one holiday to another by changing out ribbons and colors. Bonus points if you redonate the items after the holiday is over. This is a great way to decorate inexpensively and keep your holiday decor fresh from year to year.



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### BUYER'S TIP

#### Buy Good Quality Reusable Items

When buying reusable things, make sure you choose items that are in good shape and of good enough quality to prolong their life. Avoid buying things like fast-fashion clothing and mass produced furniture that will break down quickly.

## AD SPACE