

GARAGE SALES

Find Vintage Holiday Tableware

It's almost that time of year when we host friends and family, laying out our best tableware to put on a stunning show for the holidays even while celebrating safely from home this year. If you're a hostess on a budget or setting up a vintage celebration, a garage sale might be the perfect way to find the table setting of your dreams.

LOOK 1: ECLECTIC CHIC

This is the one where you find plates that complement each other, but don't match. Think gold chargers set off with bold, purple patterned plates and emerald green cut glassware. Choose colors that accent your holiday décor but don't necessarily match. For this look, buy what you like, but make sure it coordinates. You can even plan to make each setting its own work of art.

LOOK 2: VINTAGE GLAM

Pick an era and look for sets that play up to that.



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Particularly popular right now are Corelle dishes in vintage 1970s colors and patterns. It may be hard to find a complete set (if you do, congratulations!), but don't fret. You can also find single plates, bowls and other dishes to round out your collection at thrift shops and online.

LOOK 3: CLASSIC LUXE

For the best shot at finding a whole set of classic china, such as was given as a wedding gift in days of yore, start looking at estate sales. Estate sale companies usually maintain a mailing list or post goods from upcoming sales on their website, so look for complete sets of china

in their inventories.

To identify what kind of china you're looking at, remember that there are three types of porcelain, all commonly called china. Bone china originated in England from imprints that include Spode. Bone china means the finely ground stone and clay also

includes bone ash, resulting in thin, translucent tableware. Hard-paste porcelain is the original type produced in China and was originally called kaolin. Today's mixtures often include quartz. Soft-paste porcelain doesn't include Chinese kaolin clay, instead turning to local clays, like those from the Limoges region of France.

Look for a backstamp on the china you're considering. These usually identify the manufacturer and the name of the pattern you're looking at. It may also indicate where and when the pattern was manufactured.

ROUND IT OUT

While you're shopping, look for other pieces to help complete your table. These include chargers, the large, round pieces that plates sit on; napkin rings and napkins; candlesticks; serving pieces and platters; silverware and glassware; and centerpieces. Also keep a sharp eye out for table linens that you can use or transform. Look for vases to fill with festive flowers or greenery or candlesticks in varying heights to fill the middle of your table.

Remember, if you're on the hunt for extra seating or even a whole new set of furniture, you're already in the right place. With luck and a keen eye, you could have a whole new table to entertain family and friends this holiday season.

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SELLER’S TIP

Consider a Multi-Family Sale

Ask around the neighborhood to see if anyone wants to join in the planning and implementation of a garage sale. The more people who are involved, the more the work can be spread out.

AD SPACE