

# GARAGE SALES

## Find New-Old Holiday Decor

Vintage is in style on more than just the table. Your grandma's holiday decorations are in vogue again and, if you're not the lucky one who inherited them or if you want to add to your collection, hit up some garage sales to score some great finds.

### HANDMADE TREASURES

Some of the best Christmas decorations are the hand-made kind. Tree ornaments, yard decor and even stockings abound at garage and estate sales. Crocheted, knitted or hand-sewn stockings are a great addition to a vintage Christmas look. Instead of hanging these by the chimney with care, consider making a wall or door display out of stockings of all sizes. Keep an eye out for not only how they're made, but for fun embroidery or vintage prints.

But remember, these old fabrics may need special care. Store vintage stockings in a cool, dry, dark place. If you need to wash them, use the delicate cycle and lay flat to dry.

### TREE ORNAMENTS

Vintage tree ornaments often display a stunning amount of craftsmanship. Look for ornaments and other decorations with the patina of age. Most components will also be glass or metal instead of plastic. Older plastics may turn brittle, but metal and glass should stay generally true

with the proper care.

These ornaments aren't going to be perfect. Glass-blown ornaments may not be perfectly shaped and may have a pontil mark where it was broken off the blowing pipe. They also won't be perfectly shiny due to patina or wear; resist the urge to paint over it. That patina is part of its charm.

Most older ornaments also have unique caps – the part that holds the loop or hook. They are simple, not filigreed like today's caps, and may be stamped with the country of origin. They may also show signs of oxidation or rust. American ornaments from the World War II era may have paper caps because of war-time metal shortages.

### JOLLY OLD ELVES

Santa's had a lot of looks over the years. Keep your eyes peeled for classic Santa Clause figurines in different poses and outfits. You may even find some associated with advertising, or old Christmas cards suitable for framing. You can also find vintage pixie elves (the forerunners of the Elf on the Shelf) to add some variety to your displays.

### SNOW GLOBES

Nothing says Christmas magic like a gorgeous snow globe. You can start a collection with this year's and work your way backwards through finds at garage sales and estate sales. Or just grab the ones that catch your eye.

### GARLANDS

Similar to stockings, handmade garlands are also a gorgeous and vibrant part of the Christmas season. Look for glass garlands or aged silver tinsel that's turned a lovely golden hue over time. Also popular are handmade poms, flags, wooden bead and other garlands. String them around your tree or drape them across a mantle for a classic look. Remember to treat delicate items with care, especially if its strung with twine or rope. You may have to restring these garlands every few years, if possible, to keep them strong.



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### BUYER’S TIP

#### There’s Always Wiggle Room

Most people don’t hold garage sales to make a lot of money; they’re trying to get rid of stuff. If you see a more expensive item you like, remember to ask a question like, “What price can you give me on this?”

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