

GARAGE SALES

Keeping Your Sale Safe

Garage sales can be intimidating, especially if you've got a crowd of sellers and you're all by yourself trying to handle transactions and keep an eye on your merchandise. Keep reading to learn more about garage sales and safety.

CROWD CONTROL

Time was all you had to worry about at your garage sale were sticky fingers. But now there's also deadly germs. Make sure your garage sale is a safe space by adhering to local rules and regulations regarding gatherings. Wear a mask and leave masks out for your shoppers to take. Place hand sanitizers around your sale and wipe down surfaces that are frequently touched, like if you're using a mobile device for credit card transactions. Place your tables so that there's enough space for social distancing, even among browsing shoppers.

LOCK IT DOWN

Make sure to keep busybodies out amongst your sale items, where they belong, and



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out of your home and other private spaces. Keep doors leading to your house locked, including any that come from the garage or the basement. Firmly but calmly deter any-

one asking to use the phone or the restroom, even if they claim it's an emergency. Have a list of nearby stores and public restrooms handy that you can direct people to.

You'll also want to watch out for the cute little liabilities that are kids and pets. Keep both corralled in a safe space well away from your sale to avoid any possible danger. Not only

can kids and animals attract bad actors, they may also create a situation that's dangerous for your shoppers. It's best to keep them out of the way.

HAVE BACKUP

Don't try to handle even a small sale alone. Recruit friends and family to help you handle transactions, keep items in order and monitor entrances and exits. If it's too warm or cold, take turns cooling off or warming up in the climate controlled house while also acting as a hidden pair of eyes on the merchandise for sale.

MANAGING MONEY

Keep cash close to you. Instead of a cash box, opt for putting money on your person in an apron or fanny pack so that it can't walk off while you're not looking. During your sale, take the time to move larger sums of money into the house, where it's safe, only keeping enough on you to make change for your buyers. You can also offer online payment options such as Square, Venmo, PayPal or your mobile device's payment service to make transactions safe and cashless. Also, don't accept personal checks unless you know the buyer well. Know the locations of nearby ATMs so you can direct people where to go get cash to complete the sale.

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BUYER'S TIP

Use Cashless Payment Apps

If you're planning a full day of garage saling, sign up for several cashless payment apps such as Venmo, PayPal and CashApp before you hit the road. Some of these services may require you to verify your bank account and it may take a couple of days, so plan well ahead of your sale. That way, you don't have to carry cash for every sale and it's easier on sellers, too.

AD SPACE