



## May 2016 – Spring is Around the Corner

Ok, spring is in the air and this summer you are seriously thinking of having a garage sale but you keep asking yourself, is it worth all the work?

Here are some things to think about regarding selling your items:

Garage Sales take a lot of time with preparing, marking the items, getting tables and chairs, praying for good weather, and then bartering your items. If you have a lot of items including furniture and large ticket items, then it might be worth your effort. You can always donate the items after the sale and you can arrange a pick up so the items don't make it back into your house.

The other places to consider selling your items at are: E-bay, craigslist, and consignment shops.

With E-bay and craigslist, you have to create an account and be comfortable with computers, uploading images, and writing descriptions of the items for sale. With craigslist, you may have to meet up with strangers in order for the exchange to take place. Take some precautions especially if you are a woman. Meet them in a public spot, such as a police station or restaurant. Trust your gut, if something isn't sitting right with this transaction, just don't do it.

Do some research. You can find items like yours online and then see what it sold for last time. That might give you an idea of what to try and price your items. When you are looking at selling on E-bay, you can tell a person who does a lot of transactions from a newbie by their profile and look at the feedback they have received from other customers.

Be aware of scams. Some people just feel comfortable with their sales taking place in the USA. We've done a lot of buying and selling thru E-bay but I do only order things from the USA. In fact before I buy most items, I check in E-bay and see what is available there first. I've saved a lot of money and it's made me a more educated shopper.

If meeting strangers and taking the time to upload files is a scary thing, then look at local consignment shops in your area. You can ask yourself, is it worth a drive to Novi or Ann Arbor to get you a few more bucks, or do you just want to use something local so it's more convenient to drop off the items. Lately, in Fenton, I have been using My Sister and Me consignment shop on N. Leroy and they have been very pleasant to deal with, while also being honest.

Be realistic with pricing. You will rarely get back what you paid for the item, but at least it's not taking up space on a shelf. A little bit of cash is better than no cash at all, right?

Here are a few website to read:

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/253377>

<http://www.moneycrashers.com/successful-garage-sale-tips/>

<http://www.moneycrashers.com/make-money-selling-consignment/>

Happy Organizing!

Your local professional organizer,  
Betty Huotari

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810.348.1772

[betty@logicalplacement.com](mailto:betty@logicalplacement.com) • [www.LogicalPlacement.com](http://www.LogicalPlacement.com)

