



May 2017 - Preparing a Garage Sale

So you have a lot of stuff you want to sell and are going to make millions, right? Wrong!

Well, maybe you can make several hundreds of dollars if you are lucky — but think of the room you will get back in your basement or house by eliminating that stuff you just don't need.

Here are 12 helpful tips to prepare for the best possible garage sale:

1. Start pulling your items together and place them into boxes or totes. Go through your house room by room and ask yourself do you still love this item or would you be happier to turn it into a couple of bucks?
2. Ask your friends and neighbors if they are interested in joining you for the sale. It's more fun to do this with someone else, plus you can encourage each other to de-clutter even more.
3. Plan your sale usually starting on Thursday through Saturday. It's even smart to see if there are any local events happening near you, so you can attract people who will be in town for that reason.
4. Place an advertisement in your local paper and mention your sale days and times on your Facebook page. Remember to locate garage sale signs at the busy intersections near your residence on your sale days.
5. Borrow enough tables, chairs, stickers, felt markers, paper and a fanny pack for your small change. If you want to accept credit cards, you can get the Square credit card reader. It plugs into your phone and only charges you when you use it. There is no monthly charge!
6. Garage sales usually start around 8-9 am and run through 4 pm. Don't be surprised if you have people arriving 30 minutes before the sale starts. The early bird gets the worm! Some will ask you to let them preview the sale, but it's most fair to let everyone see all the items at the same time.
7. Many sellers have no idea how to price their items. If you have a chance, go to a garage sale a few weeks before yours, and observe how people are pricing items. You can also do some research on eBay and Craigslist as well. Finally, you may have a friend who attends a lot of garage sales and may give you a hand at pricing items.
8. If you have a pricier item to sell and someone offers you less, ask them for their name and number. Then, if you don't get what you wanted during the sale, you can always call them and see if they are still interested in the item.
9. On the day of the sale, it's good to have a few snack items and cool beverages ready for yourself. You may not have much of a chance to leave your sale area once it starts, especially if you are working alone.
10. If your sale runs over several days, it can be helpful to have access to storage in your garage. That way, you can pull your items in and out of storage more easily.
11. Finally, at the end of the sale, decide what you want to do with the leftover items that haven't sold. Should you donate them to charity, or try selling them on eBay or Craigslist?
12. Or, your last resort can be bringing them back into the house again, because now you have been staring at them during the sale and you think they aren't that bad... maybe you can love them again.

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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