

# GARAGE SALES

## Downsizing With a Garage Sale

### Clear Clutter, Save on Moving Costs and Reduce the Stress

If you're planning a move — especially into a smaller space — a garage sale can be one of your best tools. It helps lighten the load, reduces moving expenses and gives you a head start on settling into your next chapter.

Whether you're relocating across town or across the country, here's how to make your garage sale work for your move — not against it.

#### START WITH THE 'NO' PILE

As soon as your move is confirmed, start asking one question: Do I really want to bring this with me? Downsizing forces tough decisions, but it also offers a clean slate. Use your sale as motivation to sort early and often.

Create an area in your garage or a spare room where you can begin collecting sale items. Focus on furniture that won't fit the new space, clothing you haven't worn in a year, duplicate kitchen gadgets and decor that no longer suits your style.

The earlier you start, the more prepared you'll be when it's time to list and sell.

#### ORGANIZE BY ROOM FOR EASY SETUP

When preparing items for



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your sale, consider grouping them by the room they came from — kitchen, living room, bedroom, etc. It makes pricing easier, and shoppers often appreciate browsing with a sense of theme or function.

Be sure to clean everything before you set it out. Wipe down furniture, wash linens and test electronics. The cleaner and more presentable your items are, the more they'll sell — and the less

you'll have to deal with after the sale.

#### PRICE WITH PURPOSE

Unlike a typical garage sale, where you might be casually decluttering, a moving sale has a clear goal: get rid of as much as possible. That means pricing with urgency. Mark things low enough to move quickly, and be willing to negotiate — especially toward

the end of the day.

Bundle small items, offer discounts on bulk purchases and use "Make an Offer" signs for bigger pieces. The fewer things you have to haul away or list online afterward, the better.

#### USE THE SALE AS A SELLING POINT

If your home is also on the market, a well-run garage sale can serve as extra exposure.

Some buyers like to walk neighborhoods and may even inquire about the house itself. Keep real estate flyers on hand or add a small sign with your agent's info near the checkout table.

Even if the sale doesn't lead to a buyer, it shows that you take care of your belongings — and your property.

#### PLAN FOR WHAT'S LEFT

No matter how successful your sale is, there will be leftovers. Have a plan in place before the sale begins: Will you donate to a local charity? Offer items for free curbside pickup? Schedule a donation pickup?

The goal is to avoid re-cluttering your space after you've already done the work.

#### MAKE MOVING DAY EASIER

Every item you sell now is one less thing to pack, haul and unpack later. It's not just about space — it's about peace of mind. A lighter load means a smoother move and a more focused start in your new home.

When done well, a garage sale isn't just a money-maker — it's a moving strategy.

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#### SELLER'S TIP

#### Set Aside Essentials First

Before you start pricing everything in sight, pack the items you'll need in your new home — so you don't accidentally sell something important in the rush.

# AD SPACE