

GARAGE SALES

What Not to Sell, and Why

A Helpful Guide to Items Better Off Donated or Discarded

Garage sales are perfect for clearing clutter — but that doesn't mean everything in your home belongs on a folding table. Some items just don't sell. Others may raise safety issues, legal concerns or even complaints from shoppers.

Here's how to sort out what to skip — and why you'll be glad you did.

ANYTHING UNSAFE, EXPIRED OR RECALLED

First and foremost, don't sell anything that could put someone at risk. This includes:

- Expired car seats or booster seats
- Cribs that don't meet current safety standards
- Recalled items of any kind
- Damaged electronics, especially if they spark or overheat
- Helmets, bike gear or life jackets that have seen heavy use

Buyers expect used items — but they still want to feel safe. If you're not sure whether something is recalled or compliant, look it up on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website.

ITEMS THAT ARE DIRTY OR BROKEN

Yes, garage sales are casual — but shoppers still expect



© ADOBE STOCK

some basic quality control.

Avoid setting out:

- Clothes with stains, rips or strong odors
- Electronics with missing cords or no way to test
- Board games or puzzles with missing pieces
- Glassware with chips or cracks
- Anything moldy, musty or visibly damaged

If you wouldn't buy it in its

current condition, it's best to leave it out or offer it for free in a clearly labeled "damaged items" box.

THINGS THAT JUST DON'T SELL WELL

Some items simply don't move — even when they're in good shape. Among the toughest to sell:

- Cassette tapes, VHS tapes and

outdated computer accessories

- Worn-out bedding or used pillows
- Single shoes or mismatched sets of anything
- Promotional swag like branded mugs or T-shirts
- Large, low-quality furniture that's hard to carry

These items often sit untouched all day, taking up valuable table space you could

use for things that actually bring in a few dollars. If they're in decent shape, donate them. If not, dispose of them responsibly.

A little editing goes a long way. By focusing on clean, safe and appealing items, you'll not only attract more buyers — you'll also save yourself the hassle of hauling unsold junk back inside.

GARAGE SALES



© ADOBE STOCK

What Not to Sell, and Why

A Helpful Guide to Items Better Off Donated or Discarded

Garage sales are perfect for clearing clutter — but that doesn't mean everything in your home belongs on a folding table. Some items just don't sell. Others may raise safety issues, legal concerns or even complaints from shoppers.

Here's how to sort out what to skip — and why you'll be glad you did.

ANYTHING UNSAFE, EXPIRED OR RECALLED

First and foremost, don't sell anything that could put someone at risk. This includes:

- Expired car seats or booster seats
- Cribs that don't meet current safety standards
- Recalled items of any kind
- Damaged electronics, especially if they spark or overheat
- Helmets, bike gear or life jackets that have seen heavy use

Buyers expect used items — but they still want to feel safe. If you're not sure whether something is recalled or compliant, look it up on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website.

ITEMS THAT ARE DIRTY OR BROKEN

Yes, garage sales are casual — but shoppers still expect some basic quality control. Avoid setting out:

- Clothes with stains, rips or strong odors
- Electronics with missing cords or no way to test
- Board games or puzzles with missing pieces
- Glassware with chips or cracks
- Anything moldy, musty or visibly damaged

If you wouldn't buy it in its current condition, it's best to

leave it out or offer it for free in a clearly labeled "damaged items" box.

THINGS THAT JUST DON'T SELL WELL

Some items simply don't move — even when they're in good shape. Among the toughest to sell:

- Cassette tapes, VHS tapes and outdated computer accessories
- Worn-out bedding or used pillows
- Single shoes or mismatched sets of anything
- Promotional swag like brand-

ed mugs or T-shirts

• Large, low-quality furniture that's hard to carry

These items often sit untouched all day, taking up valuable table space you could use for things that actually bring in a few dollars. If they're in decent shape, donate them. If not, dispose of them responsibly.

A little editing goes a long way. By focusing on clean, safe and appealing items, you'll not only attract more buyers — you'll also save yourself the hassle of hauling unsold junk back inside.

SELLER'S TIP

Check Local Rules First

Some cities restrict garage sale items like recalled baby gear, mattresses or electronics — it's worth a quick look before you set up.

AD SPACE