

# GARAGE SALES

## What Not to Sell, and Why

### A Helpful Guide to Items Better Off Donated or Discarded

**G**arage 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outdated computer accessories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 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.



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#### 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.

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