

GARAGE SALES

History of Garage Sales

There were garage sales long before there were garages. Like many of our traditions, the garage sale started on a busy port city's docks.

Keep reading to learn more about the origins of the great American garage sale.

RUMMAGE SALES

Time was when captains of seagoing ships would hold a dockside sale of unclaimed or damaged cargo. The prices were dirt cheap; to these captains, time was money and they needed to get back to sea as soon as they could to pick up more loads.

No one quite knew what would be in these cargoes. It could be a jumble of things, all heaped together, or even quite what shape the merchandise might be in after months of sailing the sea. As such, the term quickly spread to any sale of a wide variety of items that were previously owned or otherwise in less than new condition.

POST-WORLD WAR II

As the babies boomed, Americans became more and more affluent. They owned cars, and those cars often went in garages, spaces that were usually at the front of the home and were covered but still opened wide to let the car come in to park.

Garages very soon held more than just cars. Americans bought more and



© ADOBE STOCK

more goods throughout the mid to late 20th century and stored the castoffs, you guessed it, in the garage. American families began to look at those castoffs as clutter with a sense of purpose — a potential profit. They started to hold their own rummage sales in those self-same garages, sometimes spilling onto yards and sidewalks.

These garage sales or yard sales became popular with bargain hunters or with people searching for hard-to-find vintage or collectible items. Popular items at garage sales tend to be toys, fur-

niture, clothes, home decor and kitchen items.

Garage sales gained popularity beyond the garage. Communities, neighborhoods, churches and other organizations all began to hold giant sales and even turn them into events. States boast of miles-long garage sales that feature food vendors, music and more. Entire weekends can be spent garage-saling your way across the countryside.

POST-PANDEMIC GARAGE SALES

After a pause for social distancing

during the COVID-19 pandemic, garage sales are back and in a big way. Today's sales are more likely to use technology, not just for advertising the sale and items for sale, but also to take payments.

Apps like CashApp, Zelle, Square, Venmo and PayPal make paying electronically safe and easy, though the cash box isn't quite on the rummage sale heap yet.

Savvy sellers will offer shoppers a variety of ways to pay, including cashless options.

GARAGE SALES



© ADOBE STOCK

History of Garage Sales

There were garage sales long before there were garages. Like many of our traditions, the garage sale started on a busy port city's docks.

Keep reading to learn more about the origins of the great American garage sale.

RUMMAGE SALES

Time was when captains of seagoing ships would hold a dockside sale of unclaimed or damaged cargo. The prices were dirt cheap; to these captains, time was money and they needed to get back to sea as soon as they could to pick up more loads.

No one quite knew what

would be in these cargoes. It could be a jumble of things, all heaped together, or even quite what shape the merchandise might be in after months of sailing the sea. As such, the term quickly spread to any sale of a wide variety of items that were previously owned or otherwise in less than new condition.

POST-WORLD WAR II

As the babies boomed, Americans became more and

more affluent. They owned cars, and those cars often went in garages, spaces that were usually at the front of the home and were covered but still opened wide to let the car come in to park.

Garages very soon held more than just cars. Americans bought more and more goods throughout the mid to late 20th century and stored the castoffs, you guessed it, in the garage. American families began to look at those castoffs as clutter with a sense of purpose — a potential profit. They started to hold their own rummage sales in those self-same garages, sometimes spilling onto

yards and sidewalks.

These garage sales or yard sales became popular with bargain hunters or with people searching for hard-to-find vintage or collectible items. Popular items at garage sales tend to be toys, furniture, clothes, home décor and kitchen items.

Garage sales gained popularity beyond the garage. Communities, neighborhoods, churches and other organizations all began to hold giant sales and even turn them into events. States boast of mile-long garage sales that feature food vendors, music and more. Entire weekends can be spent garage-saling your way

across the countryside.

POST-PANDEMIC GARAGE SALES

After a pause for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, garage sales are back and in a big way. Today's sales are more likely to use technology, not just for advertising the sale and items for sale, but also to take payments.

Apps like CashApp, Zelle, Square, Venmo and PayPal make paying electronically safe and easy, though the cash box isn't quite on the rummage sale heap yet. Savvy sellers will offer shoppers a variety of ways to pay, including cashless options.

BUYER'S TIP

Cash is King

Even though cashless payments are becoming more popular as people become comfortable with the apps, you should still bring cash with you as you shop garage sales. A variety of small bills is best. When you get out of the car at a sale, take only the cash you think you may need to avoid losing any as you shop.

AD SPACE