

GARAGE SALES

The Day Before the Sale

A Last-Minute Checklist To Make Sure You're Ready 24 Hours Before

You've sorted your items, priced your goods and advertised your garage sale — but the day before is just as important as all the planning. Taking the time to handle final details can mean the difference between a smooth, successful sale and a scramble. Here's what to do the day before your big event.

Lay Out Your Sale Space

Set up your tables, racks and displays in advance if possible. Arrange items by category so everything's easy to browse. Place your most eye-catching items — like furniture, colorful decor or outdoor gear — near the curb or sidewalk to draw attention.

Make sure walkways are clear and there's room for people to move comfortably. If you're using your garage or porch, check for good lighting and consider adding lamps or string lights if needed.

Doing a dry run the day before lets you make adjustments without pressure. You can spot gaps, reposition popular items and create a layout that encourages buyers to linger and shop.

DOUBLE-CHECK PRICING AND SIGNAGE

Go over your items to make

sure everything is priced clearly. Use stickers, tags or signs that won't fall off or smudge. Group similar items and use simple signage like "All books \$1" or "Toys: 3 for \$5" to save time at checkout.

Also prep your sale signs. If you haven't already posted them, have them ready to hang early in the morning. Make sure they're bold, legible and weather-resistant, and include your address, sale time and an arrow for direction.

GET YOUR CASH AND SUPPLIES IN ORDER

You'll need a secure way to manage payments. Stock up on small bills — ones, fives and a few tens — and quarters if you're selling smaller items. Use a lockable cash box, pouch or apron so your change stays safe and accessible.

Also gather the extras: plastic bags or boxes for buyers, pens, tape, hand sanitizer and a calculator or phone for adding up purchases. A notepad is

handy for jotting down big sales or offers.

CONFIRM YOUR ADS AND FORECAST

Check your online listings to make sure your date, time and address are correct. Repost on community boards or social platforms for one last push. Keep an eye on the weather, and prepare a back-up plan just in case — whether it's a pop-up tent or moving tables into your garage.

Get Rest and Stay Flexible

A successful garage sale can be an early and busy day. Set your alarm, lay out comfortable clothes, and make a simple breakfast plan so you're not scrambling in the morning. If family or friends are helping, confirm who's bringing what and when they'll arrive.

With the right prep the day before, you'll head into your sale confident, ready and organized—and your buyers will notice the difference.



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SELLER’S TIP

Prep Like It’s Sale Day

Set everything up the night before as if your sale were starting — doing a full walkthrough helps you spot gaps and avoid surprises.

AD SPACE