

# GARAGE SALES

## Garage Sale Safety Tips

Keep Your Cash, Your Items, and Yourself Secure During the Sale

**G**arage sales are typically friendly neighborhood events, but it's still smart to think about safety — especially when you're dealing with cash, valuable items and lots of foot traffic. A few simple precautions can help keep your sale secure and stress-free.

### HANDLE CASH WITH CARE

Garage sales are usually cash-only, so it's important to manage money safely. Use a lockable cash box, belt pouch or fanny pack that stays on you at all times. Avoid leaving large amounts of money in plain sight or in a box on the table, where it's vulnerable to theft.

Have plenty of small bills and coins to make change easily, but don't keep too much on hand. Periodically stash excess cash inside your house or in a locked vehicle. If you're accepting mobile payments through apps like Venmo or PayPal, display your information clearly and verify each payment before handing over items.

### SECURE VALUABLES AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Display high-value items — such as electronics, jewelry,

tools or collectibles — close to your checkout area or within arm's reach. This makes it easier to keep an eye on them and discourages theft.

Keep your personal belongings, including your phone, wallet and keys, in a secure spot. Avoid leaving purses or bags unattended, even behind tables.

If you're selling anything that plugs in or powers on, set up a small test station with an extension cord so buyers can try items in front of you.

### SET UP WITH VISIBILITY IN MIND

Arrange your tables so you can see everything from where you're standing. Avoid creating hidden corners or tight spaces where people could slip items into bags unnoticed. Ask a friend or family member to help monitor the sale — an extra pair of eyes makes it easier to keep track of both shoppers and merchandise.

Keep your driveway and walkways clear to avoid trips and falls. If kids are helping

with the sale, assign them roles that don't put them in charge of money or handling customers alone.

### BE CAUTIOUS WITH STRANGERS

Most garage sale shoppers are friendly, but be cautious if anyone makes you uncomfortable. Don't let strangers into your home to use the bathroom or "see more items inside." If someone insists, politely decline or say you're not offering indoor access.

Trust your instincts. If a customer seems overly pushy or lingers too long without buying, it's OK to ask them to move along or end the sale early if needed. In rare cases, you may want to notify a neighbor or local authorities if something seems suspicious.

Safety at garage sales is mostly about staying aware, keeping your valuables close and planning ahead. With just a few thoughtful steps, you can enjoy a busy, profitable sale with peace of mind.



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#### SELLER'S TIP

##### Keep Valuables Close

Display higher-value items like electronics or jewelry near the checkout table where you can monitor them easily.

# AD SPACE