

# GARAGE SALES

## Know Etiquette for the Sale

Estate sales and garage sales are great fun. There's a huge amount of merchandise, usually for rock-bottom prices, and it can look like a shopping free-for-all.

However, there are some rules to shopping politely. Here's what you need to know to avoid rocking the boat at any sale you attend.

### **GARAGE SALE ETIQUETTE**

We know you're in a hurry to get to the deals, but that rush can get you kicked out of a sale before you've even looked around.

- Arrive on time to a sale.
- Don't harass sellers before the sale is started while they're still setting up. Never peer into windows with a flashlight or do anything else that could be hazardous to your health.
- Respect the seller's property by sticking to designated sidewalks and paths. Don't traipse through flower beds or go into areas not specifically for the sale. Handle merchandise carefully and respect the flow of shoppers around the



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sale. Don't block driveways or mailboxes, or park in other people's yards or ditches.

■ Respect other buyers by asking the seller to make a pile for you at the cashier's table rather than yelling to claim items in your line of sight.

■ Don't ask to use the seller's bathroom or go into areas where you're not allowed. Instead, use public bathrooms along your route.

### **ESTATE SALE ETIQUETTE**

While estate sales and garage sales are two different things, there are similar guidelines to your behavior. An exception is arriving early. Estate sales usually involve a line, and those first in line get the first crack at the merchandise. Otherwise, remember that you're shopping in someone's home and in someone's neighborhood. Be respectful of everyone's property and

right of way.

■ Don't bring dogs, food or dinks, and maybe leave small children at home, too. Estate sales are crowded and full of fun little things that you don't want to break.

■ Obey the estate sale company's rules. These are usually posted on their website and usually around the site, too.

■ Don't cut in line or take items from other shoppers. Politely (but firmly) wait your

### **SELLER'S TIP**

No matter what kind of sale you're having, have only items you want to sell visible to shoppers. Clearly mark what rooms or areas are off limits, and ask friends or family members to come monitor shoppers for you. Never let a stranger inside, even to use the bathroom, and always have someone keeping an eye on the till.

turn to shop. Also, don't call ahead and ask for prices. It's unfair for you to get that information ahead of other shoppers and the estate sale company is usually busy setting up the sale.

- Don't remove price tags.
- Don't try to negotiate on the first day. Usually, estate sales are discounted the longer the sale goes on.
- Know how you should pay. Some sales will take credit and debit cards or checks. Be prepared with several forms of payment.
- Pay promptly and ask for help with heavier items. Be respectful of others when pulling up your vehicle to load up large purchases.



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Politely (but firmly) wait your turn to shop. Also, don't call ahead and ask for prices. It's unfair for you to get that information ahead of other shoppers and the estate sale company is usually busy setting up the sale.

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## AD SPACE