

GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale Etiquette

The Do's and Don'ts of a Successful and Respectful Sale

Garage sales work best when both buyers and sellers follow basic etiquette.

Simple courtesies — like respecting start times, negotiating fairly and keeping things organized — make the experience smoother for everyone.

Whether you're hosting or shopping, these tips will help create a positive garage sale environment.

BEST PRACTICES FOR SELLERS

Sellers set the tone for a garage sale, and a well-organized, welcoming atmosphere encourages buyers to stay longer and spend more.

Start by clearly marking all prices to avoid confusion and constant questions.

Grouping similar items together, such as clothing by size or kitchenware in one section, also makes browsing easier.

Be prepared to negotiate but set limits. Expect buyers to haggle, but if you have firm prices on certain items, politely let shoppers know.

A sign reading "Prices firm on furniture, negotiable on everything else" can set expectations in advance.

Most importantly, be friend-



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ly and approachable. Greeting shoppers and being available for questions makes a good impression and can lead to better sales.

A positive attitude encourages buyers to stay longer and return for future sales.

HOW BUYERS SHOULD SHOP RESPECTFULLY

For buyers, respecting start times is key. Showing up before the advertised open-

ing—unless the seller allows early birds—can disrupt setup and put unnecessary pressure on the host. If you arrive early, wait until the seller signals that they're ready before browsing.

Haggling is expected at garage sales, but it should be done politely. Offering a fair counteroffer, rather than an extreme lowball price, is more likely to lead to a deal. If a seller declines, respect their

decision rather than pushing for a lower price.

Buyers should also handle items with care.

Unlike retail stores, garage sale goods are often displayed casually, and rough handling can lead to damage. If you pick something up, return it neatly to where you found it.

KEEPING THE EXPERIENCE POSITIVE

Whether you're a buyer or a

seller, following basic etiquette helps ensure a stress-free and successful garage sale.

Sellers should try to keep things organized and be fair with pricing, while buyers should be courteous and respect the seller's time and items.

A little politeness and patience go a long way toward making garage sales enjoyable for everyone involved.

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SELLER’S TIP

Be Polite and Respectful

Whether you’re buying or selling, courtesy goes a long way. A friendly attitude creates a better experience for everyone.

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