

GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale Scams

Protect Yourself From Common Tricks and Dishonest Buyers

Most garage sales run smoothly, but dishonest buyers can take advantage of unprepared sellers.

From counterfeit money to fake payment scams, knowing the warning signs can help protect your sales and ensure a hassle-free experience.

WATCH FOR COUNTERFEIT BILLS

One of the most common garage sale scams involves counterfeit money, especially large bills like \$50s or \$100s.

If a buyer pays with a high-value bill for a small purchase, check for security features such as watermarks or color-shifting ink. If you're unsure, ask for smaller bills or use a counterfeit detection pen.

Digital payment scams are another risk. If a buyer insists on paying with a mobile app like Venmo or PayPal, always confirm the transaction has gone through before they leave with their items.

Screenshots can be faked, so check your account balance directly instead of trusting a buyer's confirmation.

BE WARY OF SWITCH SCAMS

Some scammers attempt

switch scams, where they swap a higher-priced item with a similar but cheaper one or claim an item was marked at a lower price.

To prevent this, keep valuable items close by and label everything clearly. If a buyer insists on a price change, refer to your original pricing system or any pictures you may

have taken before the sale.

Another common tactic involves distraction scams. One buyer may keep you busy with questions while another takes an item without paying.

Avoid this by having a second person help monitor the sale, especially during busy hours.

Keeping small, high-value

items near your checkout area can also reduce the risk of theft.

STAY IN CONTROL OF YOUR SALE

Trust your instincts. If something feels off, don't be afraid to refuse a sale or turn away a buyer. Stick to cash whenever possible, keep

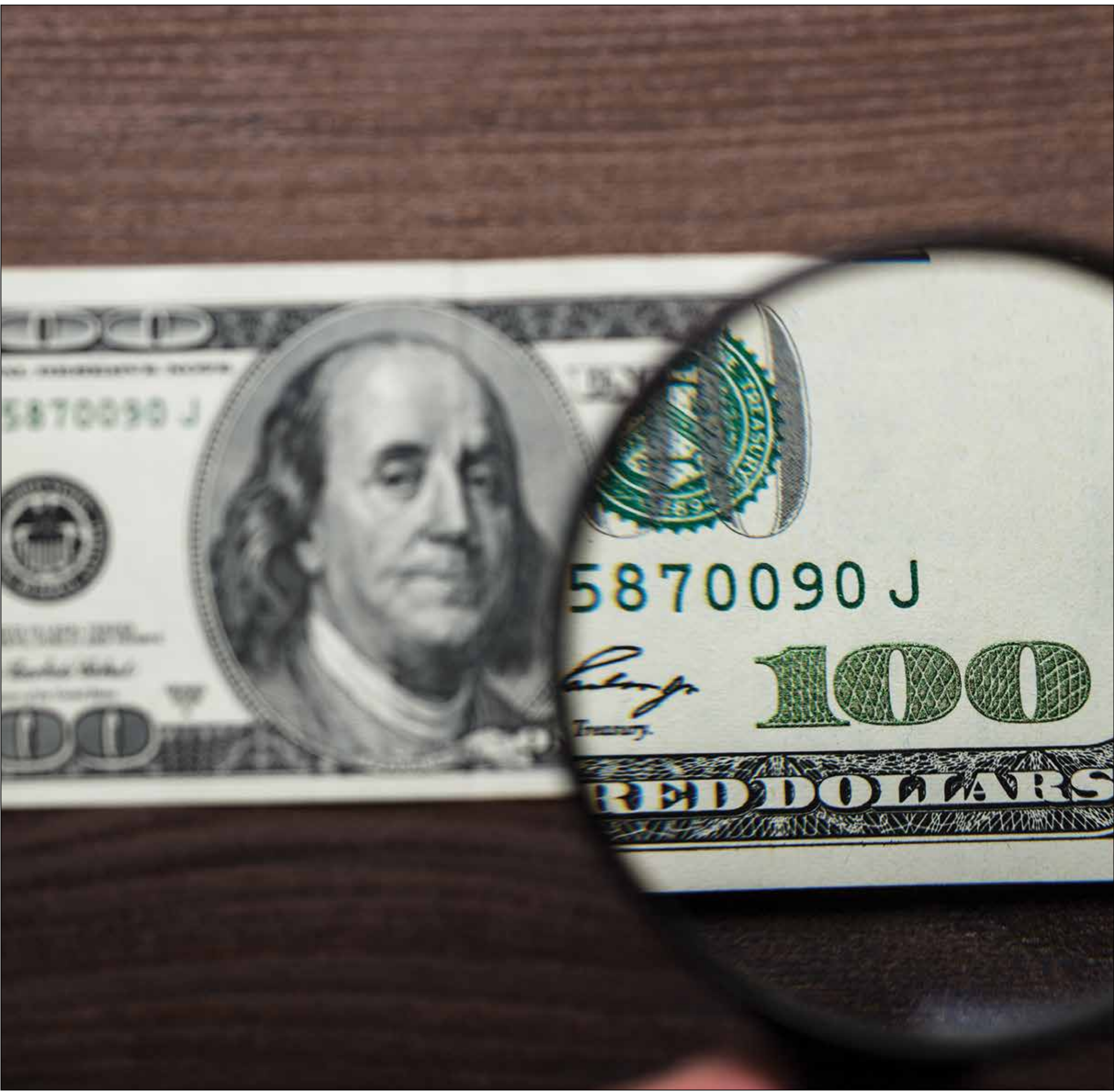
high-value items in sight and be mindful of anyone trying to rush or pressure you into a deal.

A few precautions can go a long way in protecting your garage sale. By staying alert, checking payments carefully and keeping track of items, you can ensure a safe and successful selling experience.



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SELLER'S TIP

Count Cash Carefully

Always double-check bills before giving change, and be cautious of large denominations to avoid counterfeit money scams.

AD SPACE