# GARAGE SALES

# Tracking Sale Earnings

## Simple Recordkeeping Helps Sellers Stay Organized and Avoid Confusion

A busy garage sale can move fast, especially when several shoppers arrive at once and more than one person is helping with checkout. In that kind of rush, a simple system for tracking sales can make the day easier for everyone at the table.

Good recordkeeping does not have to be complicated. Sellers can use a notebook, a legal pad or a printed sheet to note what sold, how much came in and whether the buyer paid with cash or received change.

The goal is to keep a clear running record as the sale unfolds.



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### SEPARATE BIG PURCHASES

One helpful step is to separate larger sales from small routine ones. If someone buys a lamp, a folding chair and a side table for one combined price, writing that transaction down right away can prevent later confusion about where the money came from.

Smaller purchases such as books, mugs or toys can be grouped more simply if the seller prefers. Even then, many experienced sellers find it useful to mark each sale or keep a tally so the total at the end of the day matches the cash on hand.

### KEEP CASH ORGANIZED

Cash handling works better when bills are sorted by denomination and coins are kept in a tray, box or envelope. That allows helpers to make change quickly and makes it easier to count earnings during slow periods.

Some sellers also keep starting cash separate from sale proceeds. That way, the money brought to make change is not mixed in with the day's earnings, which helps give a clearer picture of how much the sale has actually brought in.

### HELP EVERYONE FOLLOW ALONG

A written system matters even more when family members, friends or neighbors are pitching in.

If one person accepts payment while another answers questions or helps carry items, a shared notepad or transaction sheet gives everyone one place to check.

Labels can help, too. Marking items in advance with prices reduces guesswork and cuts down on differing answers from different helpers.

If a price changes during the day, updating the note or master sheet can help keep the whole team on the same page.

For higher-priced items, a little extra detail can be useful. A short note describing the item and final sale price can help sellers remember what moved early and what may need a lower price later in the day.

At its heart, a garage sale is a neighborhood tradition built on everyday goods and friendly exchanges. Keeping track of sales with a simple, steady method helps sellers stay organized, helps helpers work together and lets the day feel a little more relaxed from the first customer to the last.

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**SELLER'S TIP**

**Use One Running Tally**

Keep a single notepad at the checkout spot and have every helper write down each sale right away.

AD SPACE