

GARAGE SALES

Clothing That Didn't Sell

Smart Ways to Reuse, Donate or Resell Leftover Clothes

You folded it, labeled it and displayed it — but it still didn't sell. Clothing is one of the most common garage sale leftovers, and it's easy to feel stuck with piles of unsold shirts, pants and jackets. Instead of boxing it all up and shoving it back in the attic, consider a few smart ways to keep those items moving and useful.

DONATE TO A LOCAL ORGANIZATION

The simplest and most helpful option is donation. Many community thrift stores, shelters and churches gladly accept gently used clothing. Look for places that support causes you believe in — like women's shelters, youth centers or organizations that provide workwear for job seekers.

Before donating, take a few minutes to fold items neatly and check for stains or tears. While not everything has to be perfect, clean and sorted clothing is more likely to be accepted and resold. If possible, group items by size or category to make it easier on volunteers.

Call ahead or check donation guidelines online — some places only accept seasonal clothing or may be short on space.



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TRY A LOCAL CONSIGNMENT SHOP

If you have higher-quality clothing or brand names in good condition, a local consignment shop might be a better fit. These stores resell your items for you and pay you a percentage of the sale price.

Consignment is especially effective for adult clothing, handbags, jackets or well-kept children's clothes. It may take a few weeks to see results, but

you'll earn more than you would have at a yard sale — and reach a different audience.

Just make sure to check the shop's policies first. Many only accept clothing by appointment or during certain months.

HOST A CLOTHING-SPECIFIC SALE OR SWAP

Sometimes a general garage sale isn't the best place to sell clothes — especially if you had racks full and buyers didn't

seem interested. Instead, consider hosting a smaller, clothing-only sale later in the season. Advertise it as a "closet cleanout" with deep discounts or bundle pricing.

Or, go a step further and organize a clothing swap with friends or neighbors. Everyone brings a bag of gently used clothes, lays them out, and shops for free. It's a fun, social way to clear space while letting your clothes find a new home.

SELL IN SMALLER BATCHES ONLINE

For designer labels or in-demand kids' brands, online resale might be worth the time. Platforms like Facebook Marketplace or community boards are ideal for listing small batches or curated bundles.

Instead of photographing every piece, group items — like "6T girls fall clothes, \$10 for all" or "men's XL work shirts, 4 for \$15." The clearer your listing, the quicker it will move.

Be realistic, though: online selling takes time and may not be worth it for everyday basics. Stick to items that are clean, in good condition and likely to catch attention.

GIVE YOURSELF A DEADLINE

Whatever you decide, don't let the leftovers linger. Set a one-week deadline after your garage sale to donate, list or sort everything. That way, your progress doesn't get undone — and your home stays clutter-free.

With a little follow-through, unsold clothing doesn't have to be a waste. It can still find the right owner — you just need to guide it there.

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SELLER’S TIP

Sort Clothing Before You Donate

Separate items by season, gender or size before dropping them off — many donation centers appreciate the extra effort and it keeps clothes in circulation.

AD SPACE