

GARAGE SALES

Rain on Sale Day? Here's What to Do

Smart Backup Plans to Keep Your Garage Sale Dry and Profitable

You've advertised your garage sale, priced every item and even set up tables the night before. Then the forecast changes. A little rain doesn't have to wash out your plans, though. With a backup strategy and a few supplies, you can salvage your sale — and even stand out while others cancel.

HAVE A COVERED SETUP OPTION

The best way to rain-proof your sale is to hold it in your actual garage. Clear space ahead of time so you can move tables inside quickly if needed. A carport or covered patio works too, as long as it has enough room for people to browse comfortably.

If you're committed to an outdoor setup, keep folding tents, pop-up canopies or even large umbrellas on hand. Plastic tablecloths and fitted sheets can cover tables, and you can use clothespins or bungee cords to secure them in place.

MAKE IT EASY FOR SHOPPERS TO STAY DRY

Think about your buyers: Will they have room to walk under cover? Is the driveway safe and not slippery? Do you



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have a rug or towel to help them wipe their feet?

Create a dry, inviting path with clear signage pointing to your covered area. If there's heavy rain, close off parts of the driveway with cones or signs so shoppers don't slip or get soaked trying to find you.

OFFER INCENTIVES FOR BRAVE SHOPPERS

If the weather is gloomy but not dangerous, you may still get foot traffic — especially from serious buyers. Consider

offering a "Rainy Day Deal" to reward those who show up. A sign reading "20% off — Rain or Shine!" can encourage browsing even in drizzle.

Friendly greetings and warm energy go a long way when skies are gray. Offering small comforts like coffee, hot chocolate or even a dry spot to stand can turn a dreary morning into a memorable sale.

ADVERTISE IF YOU RESCHEDULE

If the weather turns danger-

ous or the rain simply won't let up, it's OK to call it off. But don't leave potential buyers in the dark. If you've advertised in the newspaper, on online boards or on social media, post an update as soon as possible with your rescheduled date.

For physical signs, use a waterproof marker and clear plastic sleeve or sandwich bag to cover your updated notice. You can also leave one sign in place the day of the canceled sale directing people to your new date.

DON'T PACK UP EVERYTHING AT ONCE

Light rain may come and go throughout the day. Keep a portion of your sale open if it's safe to do so. Some of your most committed buyers might show up in the afternoon, when the weather clears.

Garage sales are always a little unpredictable — but with some quick thinking and flexible planning, even a rainy day can turn into a successful one.

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SELLER’S TIP

Keep Plastic Sheeting Handy

Inexpensive tarps or clear plastic sheets can protect items in a pinch — especially when the forecast changes suddenly.

AD SPACE