

Tips for Hosts

City-Wide Garage Sale



Here are a few excellent tips to guide you along your garage sale day. These include how to prepare your items, how to organize them, and how to sell in a fun and safe manner. We wish you a successful sale day!

- 👉 Early birds and professional bargain hunters may feel compelled to arrive at your home in advance of the advertised starting time. You are in no way obligated to comply with their requests or demands for a preview. You will likely have many guests visit your home before the day is over, so don't fear a lost sale.
- 👉 Be prepared with change for guests who arrive with only \$20 bills in hand. If making change makes you feel uncomfortable, have directions to the nearest teller machine handy.
- 👉 Keeping your money in a fanny pack or a zipper pocket inside your coat may prevent you and your money from an unhappy separation from each other. If your profits become substantial, reduce your risks and increase your safety by periodically stashing your excess in a safe place.
- 👉 Keep your companion animals confined and your children by your side. Enthusiastic shoppers may be too distracted to slam on their brakes in time.
- 👉 Don't invite strangers into your home to view your sale items. They might be inclined to enter at a later date without invitation.
- 👉 Many guests may arrive at your home at the same time. Marking prices on sale items in advance may help you maintain a calm demeanor and maximize sale opportunities.
- 👉 It's always wise to keep precious items close at hand. If you want to sell trinkets that are worth a small fortune, a garage sale is not your best bet. Remember, garage sale pricing starts at around one-third the value of your items when they were new.
- 👉 To prevent confusion and embarrassment, place your giveaways far away from other items and mark them with a "free" sign.
- 👉 Recruiting sale helpers with tasty treats or profit sharing opportunities will provide extra security and may deter the uncompensated removal of your possessions during busy times and distracted moments.
- 👉 Having clean bags, newspaper and boxes available for carrying away newly purchased treasures is a thoughtful touch that guests will appreciate.
- 👉 Let your good neighbour qualities shine by being honest about the condition of your sale items.
- 👉 If you're desperately ill or called away to negotiate a peace treaty at the last minute, place a "Sale Cancelled" sign out so guests may quickly move on.
- 👉 Relax and enjoy the day. You have a rare opportunity to make new friends, meet new neighbours and supplement your allowance with a few tax-free dollars.
- 👉 At the end of your garage sale, if there are still items that remain unsold, consider posting them in classifieds like Craigslist (www.craigslist.org) or Freecycle (www.freecycle.org), donating them to charity or calling the Recycling Council of BC Hotline (604-732-9253) to find out where your items can be best reused or recycled.

Good Luck!