

GARAGE SALES

How to Carry Cash Safely

Most garage sales don't take cards, though that's changing with less expensive and user-friendly technology. If you're used to just carrying cards or paying through apps, it may seem intimidating to carry a pocket full of cash to go garage saling. Keep safe with these tips.

SPLIT UP YOUR MONEY

Just like you wouldn't put all your eggs in one basket, don't keep all your cash in one place. Have what you want to spend at that sale in one pocket and keep the rest in the car, in a bag or in a money belt. This is also a great negotiation tactic. If the seller believes that's all the money you have, they're more willing to drop the price for you.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR MONEY

Count your money before and after going to each sale. Keep track of your purchases and their price. Most sellers don't offer a receipt, so bring



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along a little pocket notebook to keep track yourself. This is also great for noting down items you need more time to think about or sales you want to return to later.

BRING A VARIETY OF DENOMINATIONS

Focus on small bills when you're getting ready to go to a sale. Most sellers can make a little bit of change, but don't

expect to be able to crack a \$100 bill for a \$10 purchase. Many stores and shops will gladly make change for you, especially if you make a purchase.

CLEAN OUT YOUR POCKETS, PURSE OR WALLET

Before you hit the road, get all those old receipts, tissues and cards out of your wallet or bag. Take only the things you

think you'll need (maybe leave the club memberships and library cards at home). You won't have to dig for change or cash, keeping your attention on the things happening around you, and if your bag or wallet does get stolen, there's less to replace.

BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Keep an eye on what's going

on around you, especially if you're in an unfamiliar area. If you feel someone jostle or bump into you, do a quick check and make sure you still your keys, wallet and phone. Try to bring a friend with you in case anything happens and remember to lock your purchases safely in your car while out and about. Don't leave items or money visible in the car.

WEAR YOUR CASH

If you're planning to bring quite a bit of cash with you, say you're furnishing a whole home or looking for antiques, consider wearing it on you, such as in a money belt. Just don't take the money to pay out of it; you'll be giving away your hiding spot. Excuse yourself to the car and take the proper amount out then. If you're making a large purchase, always count the money together with the seller and have a witness.

DON'T FLASH YOUR CASH

This includes paying careful attention to what you're wearing. Leave the designer bag at home and wear the minimal amount of jewelry. Fancy electronics should also probably stay home, as should name brand apparel. Only show the money you're going to use for a specific purchase.

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BUYER'S TIP

Map Your Trip

When you're mapping out your garage sale trip, also note the locations of ATMs in case you need to pick up some more cash along the way.

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