

GARAGE SALES

Top Bargain Finds

Garage sale shopping requires some planning. You need to peruse newspaper and online ads to find sales in your area, make a plan for hitting all the sales and know which items to look for among the bric-a-brac. If you put in the work, however, there are great deals to be found.

Some lucky shoppers have unearthed literal treasures at garage sales. According to MentalFloss.com, some notable finds include unpublished photo negatives of Marilyn Monroe, original photos that might have been taken by Ansel Adams, a 16th-century oil painting, artboards from the first Avengers comic book, a brooch once owned by Russian royalty, and an original copy of the Declaration of Independence.

While you shouldn't count on that kind of success, you can find great bargains on lightly used items that you would spend many times more to purchase new. Once you've mapped out your route



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and begun shopping, be on the lookout for these great values.

BOARD GAMES

At \$10 to \$50 apiece, buying more than couple of board games can break the bank. At garage sales and thrift stores, they can be had for as little as \$1, and commonly in the \$2 to \$5 price range. If you don't play board games often and don't want to invest a lot of money, it makes a lot of sense to buy them gently used and have a large selection at your

next family game night. Getting a bargain and making memories — what's not to like?

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Flash cards, workbooks, textbooks, and personal development and self-improvement books are great garage sale finds, if you have a specific need. These materials often have been very lightly used by the original owners, if they're used at all, and can be had for pennies. While there are many

educational resources available online, it's always nice to have a tangible educational supplement. Even in today's high-tech world, flash cards are a tried-and-true way to learn math facts.

SPORTS AND HOBBY EQUIPMENT

If you're in the market for a baseball helmet, golf clubs, or tennis rackets look no further than a garage sale. Garage sales are often chock full of the leftovers from the seller's previous interests. You might

even be able to buy an entire outfit to get started in your sport of choice. Other pricey items that you might find at a serious markdown include scrapbooking or stamping supplies, model trains, knitting needles and yarn, craft kits and collectible cards.

VINYL RECORDS

Vinyl has seen a resurgence in popularity as of late, and you might find yourself with quite a bit of competition for vintage finds. There are, however, still deals to be found. Many people have a box of records they haven't listened to in years taking up space in an attic or basement. Their loss is your gain.

KITCHEN GADGETS

They come and they go, and when the well-outfitted cook has no more use for, say, a pricey juicer or a fancy coffee press, it gets tossed into the garage sale pile. Once again, the garage sale shopper reaps the benefits.

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

Much like board games, the cost of books adds up quickly if you're a voracious reader or have a preference for rare editions. Garage sales are prime hunting grounds for literary finds at rock-bottom prices, so you can build your personal library on a budget.

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SELLER TIPS

The Price Must Be Right

Pricing items for your garage sale can be a challenge. After all, you probably recall about how much you paid for each item, and it can be hard to get used to the idea that it's now worth much less. Objectivity is the key to setting prices that shoppers will see as fair and having a successful sale. Financial guru Dave Ramsey offers a guide for setting garage prices, as well as other pricing tips, at <https://bit.ly/2mVIUIO>.

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