

GARAGE SALES

Mopping Up After the Sale

Your garage saling is all done for the day. You've got a pile of goodies or a pile of cash, depending on what side of the table you were on. So now what? Keep reading.

BUYER TURNED SELLER

If you've got a load of collectibles in your garage sale bag, then get ready to list them online and make a tidy profit. Just know your market well. Some hot items to look for at garage sales include vintage dishes and Pyrex, records and CDs, collectible toys in good condition, collectible electronics and antique furniture.

LEFTOVERS

If you're a seller, you've likely got some stuff that just didn't move. Before you even have your sale, call around to various charities in town and find one that will haul off your leftovers for you. Be aware that some won't accept certain items, like rugs that were used in a house with pets, or baby goods like car seats. Have a disposal plan for those items, too — either a friend who's willing to lend you a truck and some muscle or know when your local large item trash pick-up is scheduled.



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BOOK IT

If you've got a lot of books left over, consider donating them to a hospital or retirement home in your area. Many libraries also have friends organizations that hold book sales, and they'll

take your leftovers for their sale. You can also turn to local used bookstores or online sites for rare items or textbooks that are still pretty new.

USED CLOTHES

Gently used clothes are

almost always welcome at homeless shelters, especially kids' clothes. Call around to see what sizes and styles are needed before just dropping off your bags. And make sure they're in good condition, like what you'd want for your own

family. If the clothes are too far gone, you can always cut them up for use as rags in your garage or outside.

USED BLANKETS, SHEETS AND BEDDING

Your local animal shelter can always use fresh blankets and bedding, especially if your area is expecting cooler weather soon. Make sure items are clean and free of buttons, tassels and other things that could harm the animals.

USED TOYS

Daycare centers, churches, women's shelters and other organizations are always on the lookout for good used toys. Just make sure the items are clean, still work and aren't recalled before dropping them off.

RECYCLE IT

If you've got large metal items that didn't sell, like window air conditioners, beds, bikes or barbecue pits, you can take them to a recycling center that offers cash per pound of usable metal. Paper and plastic can also be recycled, just look for the symbol on the outside of the item. Sort the recycling by type before dropping it off.

If you've got electronics, look for a local electronics recycler that accepts donations. Some places even refurbish old electronics for reuse.

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SELLER'S TIP

Get a Receipt

No matter what you're donating, make sure to get a receipt from the charity you donate to. You may be able to take a deduction on your taxes.

AD SPACE