



Garage Sales – Helpful Tips & Ideas

Signs of spring are everywhere – robins; flower bulbs tentatively poking their heads up out of the garden; telemarketers selling lawn care services as opposed to snow removal; and garage sales! Here are some ideas to help make your garage sale a success. Feel free to share this information with family, clients and friends:

Talk to your neighbours to see if anyone else is interested in holding a garage sale. Multiple house garage sales offer potential buyers a greater selection of merchandise. Costs for advertising can be shared between the participants. Free advertising is available on bulletin boards, coffee shop free newspapers, internet i.e. Craig’s List or Kijiji, and road side signs.

A couple of weeks prior to holding the garage sale start sorting through closets, the basement, and garage to determine what household items you are willing to part with, and the condition of same.

A quick trip to the store to purchase some small self sticking stickers or labels will allow you to pre-price your items. If more than one family member is assisting in the pricing, each of you calls out the price you think you would be willing to pay for the item. See if you are on the same track as to the potential value. Know what your rock bottom price is.

What you will require to make the day go smoothly:

- Use colour stickers to assist in pricing items: red \$1, blue \$5, green \$10
- Boxes or plastic bins can be useful in grouping small items
- Have lots of change - both coins and bills.
- Consider using waist pouches or a carpenter’s apron for your cashiers.
- Tables for display purposes – consider using picnic tables, planks, old doors etc. with saw horses or concrete blocks to keep the merchandise off the ground.
- Place colourful balloons outside your house to make it easy to spot
- Helpers – get the children who are old enough involved in age appropriate ways
- A portable clothes rack or clothes line can be used to display clothing which is clean and in good repair
- Coffee – If the weather for the approaching day appears to be on the cool side, consider having coffee available for your potential buyers. Lingering over a coffee might lead to increased sales.
- Consider donating the money you raise to your favourite charity. You can make this known at your sale and through your advertising. Encourage your children to consider this concept. It is a great way for them to learn the importance of “giving back to the community” or less fortunate.

After the Sale – Anything that is in GOOD condition, that doesn’t sell, donate to Goodwill, Salvation Army, local shelters for men, women or teens.

*Provided Courtesy of
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