

Top 10 Tips for Organizing Items for a Garage Sale, Consignment Store and eBay to Earn Extra Cash

Not sure what to do with those unneeded, unused items in your closet, garage or spare room? If you're wondering, "Why do I have all this stuff and where did it come from?" - don't worry because "stuff" tends to accumulate over a period of time. Do you have clothes in your closet with the tags still on them? Did you jump on the Beanie Baby bandwagon? Are you a collector? Have you considered having a garage sale, taking your gently used clothes to a consignment store or perhaps putting your items on eBay? It doesn't hurt to make a little cash on these items.

10 Tips to Getting Cash for Treasures

1. Make sure the item is in good condition. I highly recommend contacting an appraiser for specialty or antique items. For more information visit www.appraisers.org/ASAHome.
2. Be sure to dust off items. Your goal is to get top dollar; you won't get cash for dust bunnies.
3. Get help. Often times we have an emotional bond or attachment to stuff. Having help or a support system to guide you back to reality can be empowering.
4. If you choose to have a garage sale, be sure to advertise and include directions. Also, check the weather on the day of the garage sale; there's nothing like a rainy day to spoil your event.
5. Be creative if you choose to have a garage sale. For example, offer coffee in a "real" mug - no plastic cups, unless you have a truckload of them. Another incentive at your garage sale: buy two items get the third item free. And not sure what to do with all those leftover clothes hangers - include a hanger(s) with each clothing purchase.
6. Items that don't sell in the garage sale should be immediately donated. Don't bring them back into your home.
7. Consignment shops are the best way to get the best bang for your buck. Consignment shops will normally do a 50/50 split.
8. Ask the consignment store owner if he/she would be willing to donate the items that don't sell once the contract is over. Again, you don't want to bring anything back home.
9. If you're computer savvy, why not try eBay, Craigslist, or Half.com. Craigslist is free but be sure you're listing locally. Make sure you do your research on the item. You don't want to list an item that 1.) doesn't sell, or 2.) already has multiple listings.

10. Have fun and remember one man's trash is another man's treasure!

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