

# Garage Sale Guide

## Tips for Yard Sale Hosts and Guests

Garage sales are an excellent example of Reuse at it's best. Reuse is a very important member of the 4 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy). Reusing items you no longer need keeps them out of the landfill and is often more energy efficient than recycling. The following tips are intended to help ensure that your day of selling or shopping will be a pleasant one.

## Tips for Garage Sale Shoppers

- Early birds should respect a host's decision to welcome guests at the posted starting time. Rude and intimidating bargain hunters are generally not welcome at any hour.
- Many hosts will not accept personal checks. You may want to visit a teller machine before you arrive. Remember to carry some small bills and change for small purchases.
- Drive carefully on neighborhood streets. Most Davisites place a high value on their children, pets and wildlife. Anticipate distracted pedestrians and frightened animals. Be Street Smart!
- Resist the temptation to double park, block driveways or park on the wrong side of the street. A traffic citation or fender bender will diminish the thrill of a great bargain.
- Respect the work and time that went into your host's landscaping. Navigate plantings with care.
- Refrain from offending hosts by ridiculing their taste or the value they attach to their possessions. Most reasonable offers will gladly be accepted, and civilized guests are usually able to negotiate a better deal.
- Relax and enjoy the day! You have a rare opportunity to meet community members, bring home a new treasure and act environmental by promoting Reuse, the second member of the important 4 R's!

## Tips For Garage Sale Hosts

- Early birds and professional bargain hunters may arrive at your home before your advertised starting time. You are not obligated to comply with their requests or demands for a preview. You will likely have many guests visit your home before the day is over, so try not to worry about the loss of a sale.
- Resist the temptation to illegally post tacky signs that blight your neighborhood.
- Encourage people to bring their own shopping bags to reduce waste.
- Be prepared with change for guests who arrive with only \$20 bills in hand. If personal checks make you uncomfortable, have directions to the nearest teller machine handy.
- Keeping your money in a fanny pack or a zipper pocket inside your coat may prevent your unhappy separation from each other. If your profits become substantial, reduce their visibility and increase your safety by periodically stashing your excess cash in a safe place.
- Keep your pets confined out of the way and your children by your side. Enthusiastic shoppers may be too distracted to slam on their brakes when driving past.
- Be cautious about inviting strangers into your home to view your sale items. They may enter your home at a later date without your invitation. Keep all sales items outside your home.
- Many shoppers may arrive at your home at the same time. Marking prices on sale items ahead of time may help you maintain a calm demeanor and maximise sale opportunities.
- It's always wise to keep precious items close at hand. If you want to sell trinkets worth a small fortune, a garage sale is not your best bet. Remember, garage sale pricing usually starts at around one-third the value of your items when they were new.
- To prevent confusion and embarrassment, place your give-aways far away from your sale items and mark them with a "FREE" sign.
- Recruiting sale helpers with tasty treats or profit sharing opportunities will preserve your strength and may deter the uncompensated removal of your possessions during busy or distracted moments.
- Having clean bags, newspaper and boxes available for carrying away newly purchased treasures is a thoughtful touch that guests will appreciate.
- Be a good neighbor and be honest about the condition of your items for sale. Rise above the temptation of laissez faire, let the buyer beware philosophy.
- Before advertising your garage sale, you may want to notify your next door neighbors of the date you are planning your garage sale to see if they want to host a garage sale too. More than one sale in an area will likely draw more shoppers. Also, it's a good idea to check and make sure your neighbor is not already planning an event (example: a birthday party or a wedding reception) that may disturb or be disrupted by your garage sale.
- You may want to advertise your garage sale in a local newspaper to draw more shoppers.
- If you're ill or you need to cancel the garage sale, be sure to place a "SALE CANCELED" sign so shoppers will move on and not disturb you.

Relax and enjoy the day! You have a rare opportunity to meet community members, supplement your income and act environmental by promoting Reuse, the second member of the important 4 R's!