

# Coquitlam's Garage Sale Tips

## Tips For Garage Sale Hosts

- **Garage sale signs should only be put up on your property**, not on lamp posts, street signs, or any other City property. Please only put signs up the morning of your sale and remove them immediately afterwards.
- **Early birds and professional bargain hunters** may feel compelled to arrive at your home in advance of the advertised starting time. You are in no way 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 don't fear a lost sale.
- **Be prepared with change for guests** who arrive with only \$20 bills in hand. If making change makes you feel 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 you and your money from an unhappy separation from each other. If your profits become substantial, reduce your risks and increase your safety by periodically stashing your excess in a safe place.
- **Keep your pets confined** and your children by your side to keep them safe from increased traffic.
- **Don't invite strangers into your home** to view your sale items.
- **Many guests may arrive** at your home at the same time. Marking prices on sale items in advance may help you stay calm and maximize sale opportunities.
- **It's always wise to keep precious items** close at hand. If you want to sell expensive trinkets, a garage sale is not your best bet. Remember, garage sale pricing starts at around one-third the value of your items when they were new.
- **To prevent confusion**, place your giveaways far away from other items and mark them with a "free" sign.
- **Recruiting sale helpers with tasty treats** or profit sharing opportunities will provide extra security and deter theft.
- **Having clean bags, newspaper and boxes available** for carrying away newly purchased treasures is a thoughtful touch that guests will appreciate.
- **Let your good neighbour qualities shine** by being honest about the condition of your sale items.
- **If you're ill or called away**, place a "Sale Cancelled" sign out so guests may quickly move on.
- **Relax and enjoy the day.** You have a rare opportunity to make new friends, meet new neighbours and earn with a few tax-free dollars
- **At the end of your garage sale**, if there are still items that remain unsold, consider posting them in classifieds like \*Craigslist ([craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org)), Facebook Marketplace, trashnothing.com, or Freecycle ([freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org)) or donating them to charity or calling the Recycling Council of BC Hotline (604-732-9253) to find out where your items can be best reused or recycled.

\*These recommendations are provided for convenience only and do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the City of those organizations, the platforms or any of the products, services or content found there. If you decide to visit any linked site, you do so at your own risk.

## Tips for Garage Sale Shoppers

- **Early birds should respect a host's** decision to welcome guests at the advertised time. Rude and intimidating bargain hunters are unwelcome at any hour.
- **Many hosts will not accept personal cheques.** Visit a teller machine before you begin your shopping day. Remember to carry some small bills and change for small purchases.
- **Drive carefully on neighbourhood streets.** Anticipate distracted pedestrians and pets.
- **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 good bargain.
- **Respect the effort that went into your hosts' landscaping.** Navigate plantings with care.
- **Be respectful to the host and their pricing.** Most reasonable offers are usually accepted. Civilized negotiations may get you a better deal.
- **Relax and enjoy the day.** You have a rare opportunity to make new friends, meet new neighbours and bring home a new treasure or two.