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Ten tips for a successful garage sale...

If you plan on holding a garage sale as a means of passing on unwanted items, here are a few tips to ensure success.

1. **Gather items for sale.** Go through your home in the weeks before the sale to collect items for the sale. Take a really good look at items throughout your home, and invest in making some tough decisions. You'll be glad you did.
2. **Price everything.** Price items as you collect them using removable stickers (available from office supply stores). Set prices at 1/3 of what it would cost to buy the item new.
3. **Box like items for easy set up.** Use boxes to contain like items and store them until the sale. Label them so you'll know where to unpack them come sale day.
4. **Display items for easy shopping.** Set up tables to display small items. Making items easy to see and assess makes them more likely to sell.
5. **Wake up early.** Be prepared for an early start. Garage sale shoppers are early birds!
6. **Provide packaging for bought items.** Have newspaper available to wrap fragile pieces and shopping bags on hand for people to carry items away. It's a great way to pass on all those bags you've been keeping.
7. **Provide proof an item works.** Be able to demonstrate that electric items are in working order. An extension cord can help, but be sure it doesn't become a tripping hazard.
8. **Make change.** Have small bills and coins available to provide change. Note this amount before you start selling so you can determine the true proceeds of the sale.
9. **Sell safely.** Refer to the following Health Canada site for guidelines on what can be sold at garage sales: http://hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/cons/garage_e.html
10. **Have a plan to tackle any leftover items.** Heavily discount or even give items away for free near closing time. Deliver remaining items to your local charity. Whatever you do, don't take them back in the house!

Pat yourself on the back. Not only will you have edited your own belongings to keep the best, you will have given your unwanted items a second life as someone else's treasures.