



HOW TO ORGANIZE A GARAGE SALE

A community garage sale is a service you can provide which benefits the entire neighborhood—buyers and sellers alike! Follow these simple instructions:

1. Choose a date. Spring or fall works well because you have a better chance of good weather. Summertime is difficult because many families are on vacation. Don't pick a holiday weekend. Usually a Saturday or Friday and Saturday work best for people's schedules.
2. Publicize your event (see section entitled "Publicity"). In addition, place ads in publications that will reach beyond your own neighborhood. Some suggestions are:
 - Shoreline Enterprise, (425) 339-3100 or shoreline@heraldnet.org
 - Little Nickel, (425) 743-1645
 - The Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer, (206) 624-SELL or NWclassifieds.com
 - Craig's List, craigslist.org

Check deadlines ahead of time so your ad is submitted on time. Your classified ad should include the name of your event, the date, and the street boundaries of your neighborhood.

3. An interesting newsletter article might feature tips for having a garage sale. Look online at yardsalequeen.com for ideas.
4. Advise residents to simply round up their sale items and post a sign in their front yard. They may also post signs at strategic street locations directing customers to their house. Another option is to provide balloons to participating households. Participants can pick up the balloons the night before the sale, blow them up and attach to a fence, garage, tree or sign. Avoid placing signs on the public right of way, utility poles, street signs or trees. Let residents know the neighborhood organization takes care of the publicity and advertising.
5. If you want to put more effort into your event, have residents sign up in advance if they are hosting a garage sale. Design a map with the location of all the sale sites and have them available at your local library, coffee shop, etc. Charging for the maps in order to cover your expenses is an option.
6. Encourage residents to donate unsold items to a thrift store in Shoreline, such as Deseret Industries located at 17935 Aurora Avenue North, (206) 542-9447, or Children's Hospital Thrift located at 15835 Westminster Way North, (206) 448-7609, or Goodwill located at 14500 15th Avenue NE, (206) 631-8454.