



*Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you,
spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.*

~Amy Poehler



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How to Host a Successful Garage Sale

A garage sale is an excellent way to declutter your home and make extra cash, but it takes a little planning to do it right. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned pro, here are some tips to ensure your sale is a success.

Get Organized

Start by sorting through your items and organizing them into categories like clothing, toys, books, and electronics. Not only will this help with pricing, but it'll also make your sale easier to navigate. Clean the items before the sale to ensure they look their best.

Price Smartly

Price your items fairly. If you're unsure, check online marketplaces like eBay or Craigslist to see what similar items are selling for. Remember, garage sale shoppers are looking for deals, so keep prices reasonable. Consider using stickers or tags that are easy to read from a distance.

Advertise in Multiple Places

The more people know about your sale, the better! Advertise on local online classifieds, social media, and with clear, bright signs around your neighborhood. Be sure to include the date, time, and address in your ads. The more effort you put into advertising, the more traffic you'll attract.

Be Prepared to Bargain

Garage sale shoppers love a good deal, and most will try to haggle. Be open to negotiation, but set a firm limit on how low you're willing to go. If you don't want to haggle, price items a bit higher, and be prepared to drop prices as the sale goes on.

Set Up for Success

On the day of the sale, set up early and ensure your space is inviting. Arrange items in an easy-to-browse manner, keeping like items together. Make sure everything is easily accessible, and have tables for smaller items. A well-organized display will encourage people to buy more.

Have a Plan for Leftovers

At the end of the sale, you may have unsold items. Consider donating them to a local charity or organization. Not only will you clear out your space, but you'll also feel good about giving back.

With these tips, you'll be well on your way to hosting a successful garage sale that will leave you with extra cash and a clutter-free home!



Crispy Chicken With Zucchini and Shallots

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 pounds (3 medium) zucchini, sliced into 1/3-inch-thick rounds (4 cups sliced)
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
- 2 pounds large bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs (4 to 5), excess fat trimmed
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 large shallots, peeled and quartered
- 3 large garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 3 (5-inch) thyme sprigs, plus leaves for garnish (optional)

Directions

Preheat the oven to 425°F.

Toss the zucchini rounds with 1 teaspoon of the salt in a colander placed over a large bowl. Let stand for 10 minutes to draw out excess moisture, then pat dry with paper towels.

While the zucchini drains, pat the chicken dry with paper towels and sprinkle evenly with the pepper and remaining 1 teaspoon of salt. Heat a 12-inch ovenproof or cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add the oil to the skillet and carefully swirl to coat. Add the chicken, skin-side down, and cook undisturbed until the skin is browned and crisp, 10 to 12 minutes. Flip the chicken thighs and cook until the bottom side is browned, about 3 minutes. Transfer the chicken from the skillet to a plate (the chicken will not be fully cooked).

Add the shallots, cut side down, to the hot skillet. Cook, undisturbed, until starting to brown and soften, about 2 minutes. Add the dried zucchini, garlic, and thyme sprigs, if using. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the zucchini is slightly softened, about 2 minutes.

Remove from the heat and place the chicken thighs on top of the zucchini mixture, skin-side-up. Bake in the preheated oven until the zucchini is tender and a thermometer inserted into the thickest portion of the thighs registers 170°F, 12 to 15 minutes. Garnish with thyme leaves.

Leftovers will keep in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 5 days. To re-crisp the chicken, heat it in an air fryer at 300°F for 5 minutes.

Source: [simplyrecipes.com](https://www.simplyrecipes.com)



Essential Spring Cleaning Tips for a Fresh Start

Spring cleaning isn't just about tidying up; it's a rejuvenating process that can make your home feel like new. A little planning can go a long way in making sure your space is spotless and fresh. Let's explore some effective strategies to tackle your spring cleaning.

Prioritize High-Traffic Areas

Start with the most-used spaces, such as the kitchen and living room. These areas accumulate dirt faster, so a deep clean is essential. Wipe down countertops, scrub appliances, and dust shelves. Don't forget to clean light fixtures and ceiling fans, which are often overlooked.

Focus on Windows and Walls

Spring cleaning is the perfect time to address those overlooked windows. Clean both the glass and the surrounding frames to let in the light. A quick dusting or wipe down of the walls can also help remove cobwebs or sticky spots that have accumulated during the year.

Tidy Your Storage Spaces

Spring cleaning isn't only about what's visible. Reorganizing storage areas like closets, basements, and garages ensures you're making the most of your space. Take time to sort through your belongings, donate items you no longer need, and reorganize what's left. A clutter-free home will make the cleaning process easier moving forward.

Refresh Soft Furnishings

Upholstered furniture, pillows, and curtains can trap dust and allergens. Refresh them with a thorough vacuuming, or have them professionally cleaned if necessary. If you've been considering a seasonal change, this is also a great time to rotate or replace bedding and other textiles for a fresh look.

Tidy and Clean Bedrooms

Don't forget about your personal space. Changing the sheets, dusting furniture, and organizing your closet are simple tasks that can create a calm and inviting environment. Consider adding a fresh scent, like lavender, to make the room feel extra relaxing.

By breaking down your tasks and focusing on one area at a time, you can tackle your spring cleaning with ease, transforming your home into a fresh and welcoming space for the months ahead.