

Thanks for participating in the PPNA Rummage! Here is a list of all rummages in our area to distribute to shoppers. Please keep your final list as a master copy. The list is also online at www.pabstpark.com if you run out. We have contacted the Tosa Police to let them know about the extra activity in our area, but please also take a few minutes to read the guidelines below to have a safe and successful sale!

Best safety and security tips. Unfortunately there will always be that element of risk when dealing with strangers. There is the risk to you, to them and to your property. Incidences can be accidental or intentional. These tips will help you minimize the risks.

Always have at least two adults present during your garage sale

Three would be better as there will be times during the day when one person will need to quickly drive around and check the signs are still up or prepare lunch, etc.

Position yourself at the front of your garage in view of the street

Apart from helping to make sure your garage sale doesn't look deserted (a bad sign to people as they slowly drive by) it is safer for you than being at the back of your garage sale where you can't be seen from the street.

Don't block the view to your front door or side gate

Don't hang clothes up or position a large cupboard so that you can't see who is loitering at your front door, side gate or other items for sale in your yard.

Be vigilant

Thieves often work in pairs or groups where one will try to distract you while the other will steal small valuable items or your cash box. Quite often they'll be there with the early birds while you are trying to set up or during the rush when you have 10-12 shoppers all haggling over prices, so be vigilant.

Another technique I have heard being used is a person will ask something to try to get you to go inside while they help themselves to your tables. They might say they're looking for any sort of jewelry (perhaps you have some that you hadn't considered selling until you heard how much they were prepared to spend) or that they like fixing things and are keen to buy any old televisions, computers or broken electronics (that you were planning to throw out and so hadn't included in your sale).

If you go inside, always make sure you let one of your helpers know so they can keep an eye on things while you are inside.

How to deal with a suspected pilferer

If you suspect someone is trying to steal something from your tables, make yourself visible by walking around tidying up and re-arranging items. Ask what they are interested in and whether you can help. The close scrutiny will dissuade them from trying anything.

Lock up the house

Always keep your house locked and no windows left open and be careful not to lock yourself out!

Never allow anyone to go inside your house

If they need a toilet (even for a child), direct them to the nearest gas station, fast food restaurant or shopping mall. Have a sign up saying NO RESTROOM AVAILABLE may avoid you having to refuse a request. If they want to try on some clothes, have a full-length mirror outside that they can use.

Watch out for people who are wearing a fanny pack

Most serious buyers will be wearing a fanny pack but one might be there to pretend to be the owner and sell some of your items pocketing the cash!

Try to only have one person as the designated money-person

Having only one person designated to handle the money prevents a shopper claiming that they paid for the item with someone else or you asking a customer twice for payment.

Always check what's being bought

If someone tries to help by totaling a number of items for you and just gives you the total, always have a quick look through the items to make sure they haven't slipped a high value item in there without including its correct price.

Don't be too nice to customers by helping to carry out their large purchase

This is a tough one. Be careful if you're asked to help take something out to the person's car and/or load it for them. This can take more time than you would like, leaves your garage sale one person down and you may miss a sales opportunity.

This distraction may also be what the 'buyer' wants to happen while an accomplice helps themselves to your merchandise.

The buyer might also come back claiming that you didn't load all their purchases and they'll want a refund for the 'missing' items. They could be right because it's unlikely you can remember their exact purchases. They could also be trying to con you. You could test them by saying "You're the third person to try that stunt today and it won't work". Chances are that if they're trying to con you they won't be bothered to try to get away with a \$5 con.

If you have other shoppers browsing, be clear that you can only offer a quick help (if you have helpers to mind the store) or that you can spend more time later when it's less busy. I've been caught a couple of times. Once where the person needed me to help re-arrange their full trunk trying to fit in the chair they bought. Another time was to help them retie down their trailer.

Protect yourself with these signs

To protect yourself and in case a customer comes back later wanting their money back, display these signs prominently:

- ALL SALES ARE FINAL
- ALL ITEMS SOLD AS IS
- NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN
- NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

Also, don't put yourself in a position where you may get an unhappy customer:

- Don't lie about the condition of an item.
- If the item doesn't work or has a defect, be upfront and tell them about it before they buy it.
- If it's a serious defect and you think they may return it, have them sign something agreeing to its condition as part of the sale.