

# Cash In ON YOUR CASTOFFS

Goodbye, driveway! The new best place to host a yard sale is online.

BY KATE ROCKWOOD



**CLICK!**  
Every 2 minutes,  
Americans spend  
over \$1 million on  
retail purchases  
online.

**B**efore you donate those too-tight heels, take note: Thanks to a wave of new apps and websites, it's now easier than ever to declutter your house and recoup some moola at the same time. eBay is still the go-to online marketplace—but what if you don't want to create your own listing or talk directly with buyers? Or the very thought of dealing with shipping makes you shudder? You've got options! Read on. Your \$\$\$ awaits.

LAPTOP: MARKO METZINGER/STUDIO D.  
YARD SALE INSET: ANDREW MCCAUL.

# STEP 1

## Select a site (or several)

### IF YOU HAVE:

#### CLOTHES & ACCESSORIES



#### CHECK OUT:

**thredUP** ([thredup.com](http://thredup.com))

» **HOW IT WORKS** Request the site's Clean Out Kit and thredUP will send you a large plastic mailer bag with a prepaid shipping label. Fill the bag with adult or kids' clothes in tip-top shape and return it. ThredUP photographs items, writes descriptions and sells to buyers directly from the site.

» **SHIPPING** The site handles shipping to buyers once items sell.

» **CASH IN** ThredUP's Payout Estimator makes it easy to gauge how much you'll get for your old clothes (typically 20% to 80% of an item's resale value). For example, an old pair of J.Crew jeans priced at \$26 would earn you about \$7.

**NEED TO KNOW** ThredUP accepts a wide range of brands—H&M, Lane Bryant, Gap, Talbots, and more—but won't list any item that is stained or torn. Rejects are donated or recycled unless you pay \$13 to have them returned.

### IF YOU HAVE:

#### BOOKS



#### CHECK OUT:

**Powell's** ([powells.com](http://powells.com))

» **HOW IT WORKS** Powell's won't buy books with stains, tears, water damage, broken spines or musty odors. But if you have hardbacks or paperbacks in good condition, the Portland, OR, bookstore chain will take them off your hands. Head to the "Sell Books" tab at the top of the homepage and enter your used books' ISBN (the nine-digit number near the bar code on the back) to pull up an automatic offer. Mail in the books and Powell's will resell them online or at one of its brick-and-mortar stores.

» **SHIPPING** Powell's prepays for a shipping label you download from the site, but you'll have to box up your books and mail them.

» **CASH IN** Users typically make 20% of a book's resale value.

**NEED TO KNOW** Powell's will send you your cash through PayPal (setting up an account is free and easy). If you opt for store credit, Powell's will bump up your payout to 30%.

### IF YOU HAVE:

#### ELECTRONICS



#### CHECK OUT:

**Gazelle** ([gazelle.com](http://gazelle.com))

» **HOW IT WORKS** Click "Sell" on the homepage, then choose from the list of electronics—including smartphones, tablets, cell phones, MacBooks and TVs. Find the model you're looking to sell and answer a few questions about its condition and storage capacity. Gazelle sorts through your response and automatically generates an offer. If you like the deal, mail in your gadget for a check or an Amazon gift card.

» **SHIPPING** Gazelle pays for shipping and will also send a box and supplies to help you package your item safely.

» **CASH IN** Customers make an average of \$140 per trade, depending on the device.

**NEED TO KNOW** Don't worry if you haven't removed all of your personal information, such as photos, files, music and contacts, from the old device before you mail it. Gazelle scrubs all data from gadgets upon receipt.

### IF YOU HAVE:

#### FURNITURE & HOME DECOR



#### CHECK OUT:

**Chairish** ([chairish.com](http://chairish.com))

» **HOW IT WORKS** Upload a photo, description and dimensions of your piece on your computer or through the app. If Chairish decides to take the item, it'll edit the pic, silhouetting it on a white

backdrop to make your listing look more enticing. You set a cost, but for a faster sale you can include a slightly lower reserve price. If an offer meets that price, the item sells automatically.

» **SHIPPING** For small pieces such as bookends, baskets and throw pillows, you pack and mail the items using a prepaid shipping label from Chairish. For big pieces like headboards, dressers and armoires, Chairish coordinates white-glove

movers to pick them up at your place and deliver to the buyer.

» **CASH IN** Sellers typically make from 80% to 97% of the item's resale price.

**NEED TO KNOW** Chairish doesn't allow recliners, sofa beds and mattresses. The lowest listing price is \$10.

IF YOU HAVE:

**ANYTHING & EVERYTHING**



CHECK OUT:

**Facebook online yard sales**

» **HOW IT WORKS** The social network features hundreds of thousands of subgroups devoted to reselling everything from Tupperware to toys. Mother of three Gianna Franzia, 39, started selling crib frames, strollers, baby accessories and toys on a Chicago subgroup about a year ago. To date, she has made nearly \$3,000. "If I can help other moms get items in great condition at a discount while recouping some of my original cost, it's a win-win," she says.

To find a group near you, type "online yard sale + [your city]" into Facebook's search bar.

» **SHIPPING** No need! Connect with local buyers through Facebook, then hand over your stuff in person. Keep meet-ups safe by arranging to exchange in a public place, like a café or park.

» **CASH IN** Facebook subgroups are free to use. Pick an offer you like, meet with your buyer—and pocket the proceeds.

**NEED TO KNOW** Sale guidelines may vary; in general, though, when you put up an ad, the first person to comment with interest has dibs. At that point you'll be able to see the buyer's name and photo, along with any friends you may have in common.



# YOU CAN'T SCOOP



**BUT NOW YOU CAN PREVENT IT.**



**NEW ARM & HAMMER™ Clump & Seal™ MicroGuard™ cat litter**

Try the litter that seals and destroys immediate odor, and prevents future bacterial odors — for 7-day odor control guaranteed.

