

How to Safely Sell Your Items Online



Internet sites such as **eBay**, **Kijiji** and **Craigslist** have made it easier to sell the stuff you don't want or no longer use. If your items are still in good condition, there may be a market for them online. While the Internet may be a convenient place to sell items you no longer want or need, it's important to take precautions to ensure a safe transaction.

7 tips for a quick and safe sale:

1 Prepare your items for sale. Wash or dry clean clothing and spruce up furniture with a bit of paint or upholstery cleaner. If you're selling electronic devices, be sure to delete your information from them to prevent identity theft.

2 Price the items right. Check the website you'll be selling the items on to see what other sellers are asking for similar items. This will help you gauge an accurate price for the item and allow you to make a quick sale.

3 Take photos. Most online buyers will not buy an item unless they can see photos of it first. If possible, post several photos from different angles to give prospective buyers an accurate visual description of the item.



4 Write an honest description. People expect a normal amount of wear and tear; however, if the object shows signs of excessive use, don't say that it's "brand new" or "like new." Provide an outline of the features, measurements/size and any other pertinent information.

5 Take precautions. Many websites provide sellers with an anonymous email address. Agree to meet interested buyers in a busy public place during the daytime. Let a family member or friend know where you're meeting or bring someone with you to increase your sense of safety.

6 Only accept cash. Never accept a cheque—if it bounces, you lose the money and may face steep bank fees.

7 Remove the item from the site once it has sold.

