

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



things I do for garage sale finds

Repurposing; the

Lynda Hammond

Seven years ago the “Garage Sale Gal” was born.

I walked away from a career in television news for the love of garage sales. That’s right, instead of sniffing out the news of the day I’m hunting down the best bargains. I go garage saling nearly every weekend so it’s safe to say that garage sales, for better *and* worse, have taken over my life. I’ll start with the better.

I created a Web site: www.GarageSaleGal.com for people who love garage saling as much as I do, I appear on local TV sharing tips on buying and selling at garage sales and, perhaps the best part I’ve been able to write about my garage sale adventures. I’ve been penning this column for four years, five months and one week. (Yes, I’m keeping track because I still can’t believe I get to have fun and write all about it so you can read all about it.)

Since I started writing my stories I’ve gotten emails asking what I do with the things I buy. Well, I gloat. Anything I pay just a few dollars for but looks more like a hundred makes me proud. And I reinvent. I like to buy things, think outside the box and re-purpose them—you know, use them for something other than their intended purposes. One of my favorite examples of this is an old, 1940s black iron lantern I found at a garage sale in Mesa for just \$10. This heavy swag lamp likely once hung in someone’s entry way or covered patio. But in my house it brightens up my kitchen. We already had electrical outlets above the cabinets for the tiny lights that really brighten up the place at night. So, we hung the old lantern from the ceiling just above the cabinets. At night it looks like it’s suspended in mid-air. It adds great ambience and it lights my way as I head to the ‘fridge for some ice cream for a late night snack. And in this case I get to gloat a bit too. I saw a replica of this lantern in an upscale Scottsdale gift shop for \$350. It wasn’t nearly as solid as mine and it had plastic instead of glass—they just don’t make things like they used to.

Ways to re-purpose things

**Turn an old picture frame into a serving tray by adding a coat of paint and two handles*

**Old wood window frames make great wall hangings (with or without the glass) or tables—just add legs from the hardware store*

**You won’t wear your grandma’s old mink coat but you just can’t bear to throw it away either—so make decorative pillows using the material.*

**Work old iron bird cages into your décor by displaying them on shelves or above cabinets. I’ve bought four at garage sales for \$1.*

Oh yeah, one more thing—as for the “worse”—well, there isn’t much that falls into this category but I am often asked if I really do buy stuff when I’m garage saling. Do I ever? Just ask my husband who gets to organize it all.

So, a little help please: if you see me coming up the driveway to your sale—do me a favor—tell me a story about garage saling but don’t *sell* me anything!

Okay, maybe just one little thing.



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) This is one of my favorite garage sale finds—an antique iron and glass swag lamp. I paid just \$10 for it.

Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!

Do you have a story about buying or selling something at a garage? Email the Garage Sale Gal: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on local TV stations.

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