

Money Making Ideas

Making Money Online: Turn Your Clutter Into Cash

(NAPSA)—Most Americans may not be aware of it, but they could be sitting on a gold mine in their very own homes.

An A.C. Nielsen survey showed that the typical American household has nearly 25 unused, high-value items such as personal electronics, golf clubs and musical instruments, lying around basements, attics and garages. The survey also found that owners tend to underestimate the value of these endlessly stored items and are shocked when they actually net some pretty big bucks.

So what's the best way to sell your new found treasure? Garage sales, charitable donations and the Internet are all viable means of getting rid of unwanted and unused stuff, however, selling online boasts one huge advantage over the other two: eyeballs.

Millions of buyers from around the country or world mean you have a better chance of receiving top dollar for your stuff. According to Internet Retailer, U.S. Internet retail sales exceed \$87.5 billion a year.

Today, higher value items can be easily and quickly resold over the Internet through a new wave of online "trading assistants," expert sellers in your local community who can sell your items through an online auction site, such as eBay, and then send you a check at the end of the process.

For retirees, busy professionals and working parents who may not



have the Internet savvy, time or means to sell items online themselves, trading assistants can be a great help. They manage every aspect of selling items for you, starting with offering a drop-off store or pickup service for your items.

While all have insight into what typically sells online and for how much, many trading assistants have expertise in particular areas, such as collectibles, sports memorabilia, antiques and estates. As part of their service, trading assistants will write a headline and full description for each item, take high-quality photographs and upload the listings to the site.

Once the item sells, the trading assistant tracks the winning bid, arranges payment from the buyer, ships the item and then sends you a check minus their service commission, which usually runs 25 to 30 percent of the item's final sale price.

According to Peter Walsh,

author and organizational expert on The Learning Channel's hit show "Clean Sweep," trading assistants offer a simple and immediate alternative to selling items yourself or throwing them away. "It's a quick and simple way to de-clutter your home and enjoy your living space, while making extra money with little effort," said Walsh.

Walsh offers these tips for people considering using a trading assistant to sell items:

1. To net the highest price, consider selling larger, rarer items such as antiques, collectibles, furniture, sporting equipment, electronics, jewelry or musical instruments.

2. Avoid selling items such as books, clothing or CDs through a trading assistant. These types of items do not tend to hold their value (unless very rare) when sold second-hand and are best held over for the next neighborhood yard sale.

3. Consider using the services of a trading assistant that specializes in the types of items you have to sell, such as collectibles, antiques or estates. Their insight and expertise will help maximize your return.

With 30,000 active trading assistants worldwide, including 16,000 in the United States, a nearby trading assistant can be found simply by entering a home or business address online at ebay.com/ta.