wikiHow to Sell Items on Craigslist

User Reviewed

Ready to make some extra cash and get rid of that imported beer can collection? This article will show you the best way to position your formerly priceless possessions to sell on Craigslist. Read on!

10 Second Summary

2. Select the state you live in.
3. Click "post to classifieds".
4. Click "for sale by owner".
5. Select a category that best describes your item.
6. Fill out the posting information.
7. Select "Add Images" to attach pictures of your item.
8. Click on "continue" then "publish" to post your listing.

Sample For Sale Ad

Sample Craigslist For Sale Ad

Selling Items on Craigslist
1. **Go to Craigslist.org.** After all, if you don't go there, you're not going to have a lot of luck selling on Craigslist!

![Craigslist jobs and us/ca cities](image)

2. **Choose the state where you live.** On the right side of the page, there is a list of big cities that may reflect your region. If you don't see your city there, at the bottom of the list are links to fine-tune your location.
   - Click on the link that says US States.
   - You can go right to your city by entering yourcityname.craigslist.org. For our examples, we'll use Portland as our city, and enter "portland.craigslist.org." If there is not a listing for your specific city, choose the city that is closest to you. Be sure to post your ad on one Craigslist city only - posting the same thing to multiple cities is against Craigslist Terms of Use.

![Craigslist post to classifieds](image)

3. **Click on the post to classifieds button.** It's on the left side, under the Craigslist logotype. That will bring you to a page that says: "What type of posting is this?" It gives you a list of posting types:
• Craigslist has both "for sale by dealer" and "for sale by owner" areas - generally "by owner" is for private individuals with just one or a few random used items to sell - if you are a recurring seller, either with an inventory, or you buy/make items to resell, be sure to chose "by dealer".

![for sale by owner categories]

4. **Click the for sale button, will bring you to another category page.** It features a list of about 100 categories. You can choose one. Click on the category that is most appropriate for what you’re selling. If your item does not fit within any specific category, click on the category **general for sale**.

• Since we want to sell out old bicycle, we’ll choose **bicycle - by owner**.
• When you click on that, you’ll be asked to narrow down your location.

5. **Enter the posting information.** This is the title and copy and other information potential buyers will see.
when they are searching for what you're selling. These fields are as follows:

- **Posting Title**: This is what people will see as the heading in their search results.
- **Price**: Obviously, how much you're selling the item for.
- **Specific location**: Enter your county, part of town, or other general information. Do not enter your address!
- **Reply to**: Put your email address here. You can choose whether to have an "anonymous" address created for this ad, or not. In "for sale by owner" this is generally the best choice, to avoid spam. If you are a dealer, you should list your business contact info in the ad body. There is also an option to list a phone number, and you can specify whether it is a number (cell) that can accept text messages.
- **Posting Description**: This where you do your selling. Make it interesting, make it catchy. If you don't know what or how to write sales copy, take a look at a catalog or newspaper ad you might have, and see how they do it. If it works for them, it'll work for you! If you are selling "by owner" be sure to use your own words in the ad to describe your item, you do not want the ad to sound like a dealer/commercial ad. Stick with facts, avoid hype.
  - *Be truthful here*. If there are flaws that damage the value of the item, or there's a piece missing, or that your ex will be knocking on the door of whoever buys it—let them know in advance. It may not help you sell, but it will help you avoid getting a reputation as an unreliable seller.
- **Check "ok for others to contact you..."** if it's fine with you to get unsolicited emails from strangers.
- **Check your form**. The fields in green *must* be filled in.

6. **Submit pictures of what you're selling**: This is listed as optional, but if you want to sell something, do yourself and your potential buyer a favor, and fill as many picture slots as you can with high-resolution pictures that are as good as you can possibly make them. You want people to be excited about what you're selling. Be sure to post pictures of your actual item, and avoid "stock" pictures from the manufacturer or the Internet.
- When you're done loading in images, click the **Done with images** button.
- Craigslist allows you to add up to 24 images to your ad. (CL no longer allows links or external images for-sale ads.)

7. **Check your listing for accuracy.** You want to make sure your listing will get the attention it deserves.
   - If your listing needs changes, click on the **Edit Text** or **Edit Images** buttons, and make any changes necessary.

8. **Click on the Continue button.** When you're satisfied your ad is ready for prime time, click the **Continue** button at the bottom of the page. If you have an account on Craigslist, your ad will be posted on Craigslist within 15 minutes. If you do not have an account, you will be sent a notification email that you must respond to for your posting to become active.
9. **That's it!** You're just made an ad on Craigslist! Note that while you may see a notice that says the list is updated every 15 minutes, it may sometimes take longer, perhaps an hour or two, before your ad appears in search results or in the list.

**Community Q&A**

**New! Make a stranger's day. Answer a question.**

- **How do I calculate shipping?**
  wikiHow Contributor
  Craigslist is designed for local, in-person dealings only. Most inquiries that ask about shipping are scam attempts.
  Flag as duplicate
  Not Helpful 2 Helpful 12

- **How do I cancel my listing when the item is sold?**
  wikiHow Contributor
  If you click "My Account" at the left side of the screen on Craigslist, it will display your listings, which you can edit or delete.
  Flag as duplicate
  Not Helpful 3 Helpful 11

- **How do I know when someone has responded to my ad?**
  wikiHow Contributor
  You will receive responses via email or text, depending on what information you put in the ad.
  Flag as duplicate
  Not Helpful 12 Helpful 27

- **What do I do if I am not receiving email through the craigslist mail relay system even though I know emails have been sent?**
  wikiHow Contributor
  Check your spam folder and search for the emails if your inbox has a search feature as it may have been buried by other emails. Try resubscribing or checking the option to receive Craigslist emails. If neither work, contact Craigslist through email, phone or live chat to resolve the issue.
Can I add pictures after the listing is already posted? wikiHow
Contributor
Yes, just choose to "edit" the posting and it will take you through the publishing process again. When you are prompted to "add pictures", then choose to upload.

How do they pay for the item? wikiHow
Contributor
You put your phone number or email on the post. If somebody is interested in what you are selling, they will contact you. Then you and other person can discuss the price and meet at a place for it to be exchanged. Cash is most typically exchanged.

Can I sell an item on Craigslist without a photo? wikiHow
Contributor
You can try, but it's much less likely to get sold. Buyers usually want to see a picture.

What if Craigslist cannot reach me by email, but only by text or phone? wikiHow
Contributor
They would reach you through text and phone. As long as you put some contact information, they would be able to reach you.

If I posted an ad for a Jeep and can't find it in a search, how can I link it to the search? wikiHow
Contributor
Get an account, then there will be three links. When you get that far, it should be the middle link. It will take you to your account, and should show everything you have. Also, be aware, you don't always know if you will sell it.

I have a refrigerator door handle to sell. If I need to ship the part, how should I request payment? wikiHow
Contributor
PayPal is the typical way for people to pay each other online. Set up a PayPal account if you don't have one, then give the buyer your PayPal email so they can send you payment before you ship the item.
• How can I upload pictures of stuff that I'm selling on Craigslist?
  Answer this question Flag as...

• Do I need a credit card in order to sell things on craigslist?
  Answer this question Flag as...

• How do I transfer pictures from the my pictures folder to the Craigslist ad?
  Answer this question Flag as...

Show more unanswered questions
Ask a Question
Submit
Answer Questions
Make a stranger's day. Answer a question. Learn more

Can you answer these readers' questions?

On How to Connect Candy Crush Saga to Facebook on iPad, a reader asks:
What do I do if I have tried everything in the article and reinstalled, but I was put back on level one? Facebook says to upgrade Adobe Flash, but I am using an iPad and Candy Crush Saga still won't connect to Facebook.
On How to Grow Patchouli, a reader asks:
Where can I purchase seeds in eastern Ontario?
On How to Start an eBay Home Business, a reader asks:
How do I start an ebay business in another country?

Tips

• Your ad will expire 45 days after you post it, but you may renew it at any time.

• You do not have to put contact information in your ad. Most people can contact you through Craigslist, but some people can't, so you might consider it. As mentioned earlier, though, don't make it easy for unscrupulous people to know you're selling something valuable, and where you're located. All they need to do is see one social media post saying "Having a great time in Cancun!" to know you're not at home.

• Keep this in mind as you're creating your ad: you want the people reading your ad to be more interested in buying than you are in selling.

• If you have any problems posting, take careful note of the exact words of any error messages that are shown, and visit the craigslist "help desk" forum. It is linked from the "help" page of Craigslist at http://www.craigslist.org/about/help/ (You will need to be logged in to a Craigslist account and register a "forums handle" to post).

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