

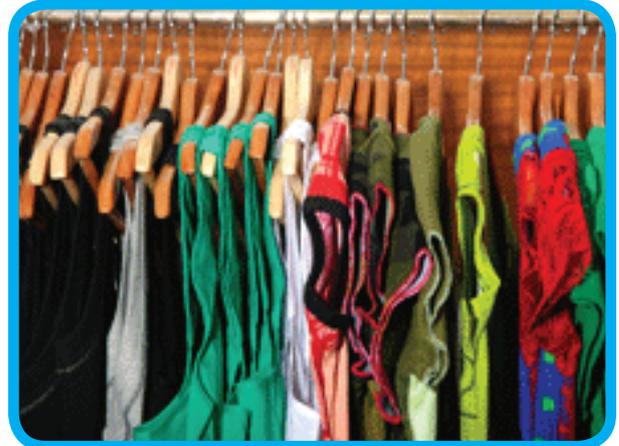
# How to ... host a swap party

Holding a swap party is a fantastic way of bringing new goodies into your life while at the same time cleaning out the old without costing you a thing!

What sort of goodies are we talking about?

You can swap clothes and shoes, tools, books, CD's, DVD's, toys, kitchen gear, or pots and pot plants. Basically, you can swap anything that isn't tied down (sorry, kids, partners and in-laws exempt).

So how to do it?



## Place and date

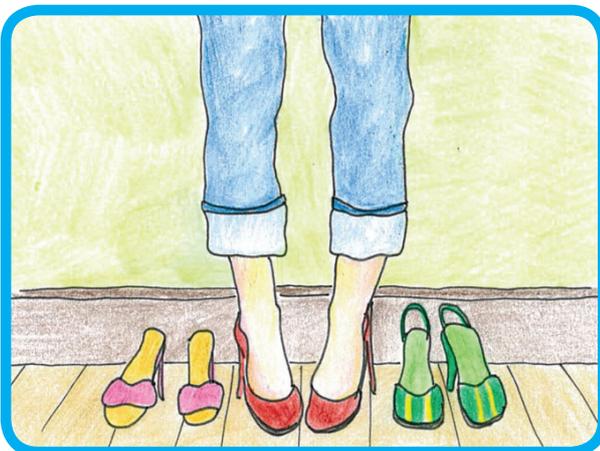
You'll need to decide a date and location according to how big you want it to be: will your lounge room be big enough or will you need a backyard, shed or public hall?

## Decide what to include

One fairly common type of swap party involves nothing but clothes, shoes, and accessories, often for women or men only. Other types of swap parties incorporate kitchen goods, small appliances, decorative items, linens, toys, and so on. If you're into a particular hobby or craft, consider a meet at which you could exchange supplies and tools specific to your area of interest.

## Invite the right people

Once you've settled on the type of swap party you're going to hold, you can start to draw up your guest list. Since the purpose of this party is to exchange things, you can afford to be a bit selective about who you invite: if you're swapping clothes, think about only inviting a small group of people who share a similar taste in clothes (i.e. a lone Goth in a room full of hippies is going to be stretched to find someone to swap with). Or, if you're aiming for a big crowd, invite a range of people so that the Goths AND the hippies AND the skaters get the chance to trade.



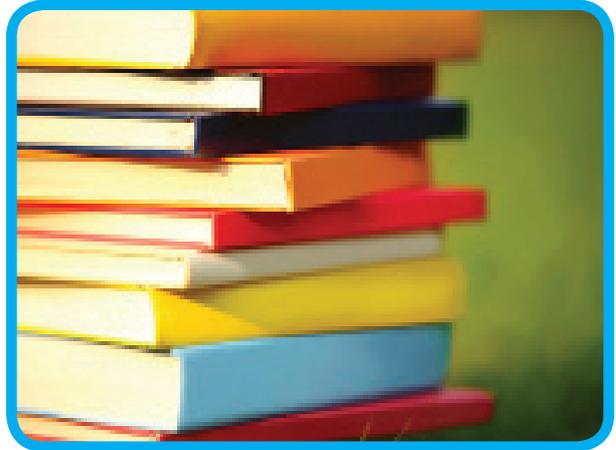
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## Set some ground rules

A bit dull, but very important: Before you send out invitations, draw up some ground rules. Think about what quality of stuff you'll accept at the party (we suggest asking your guests to only bring things that are in good or great shape), or how to handle disagreements over items (you may need to step in), and what happens to things that don't find takers by the end of the party (send the remainder to the op-shop or save for the next event). To make things simple you may want to pull numbers from a hat with each person getting to choose one item at a time, or perhaps you'll hold a free-for-all, or maybe you'll decide that each guest will get to choose

the same number of items as they contributed to the party.



## Set up the space

Like any good party, you want to prepare. If you're holding a clothes swap, you might want to set up some hangers and clothing racks or table space for folded things, and you might want to provide some space to act as a changing room for the modest guests. If you're really organised ask people to bring bags or boxes with their names on them to cart their goodies away in.

Just as a general rule: try to clear anything of your own that you DON'T want to swap, or you may notice an unwelcome gap where that treasured vase from your grandmother once stood.

Good Luck!



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