

How To Downsize Your Stuff with eBay Selling

This is a quick cheat sheet on how to sell on eBay.

1. Register for an eBay account at ebay.com.
2. Setup a PayPal account. You'll need this for receiving payments from your buyers. This is the payment method of choice for eBay users.
3. Purchase an accurate scale or postage scale for weighing your packages. This will allow you to buy postage on your computer instead of paying retail at the post office. eBay offers discounted postage through the US Postal Service, online only. Your scale needs to be accurate because the post office will check to make sure you got it right when you drop off your pre-paid package for shipping. I use an electronic kitchen scale and a doctor-style scale for larger items.



4. Find things you don't need anymore, such as clothing, shoes, gadgets, toys, games, books. Almost anything! Sell larger items on Craigslist or eBay Classified to avoid the hassle of shipping.



5. Research the recent selling prices for items similar to yours. In the eBay search bar enter the description of the item, such as "ladies jeans size 8". When you get the results, look for the link for "Sold listings". Check Amazon, too.
6. Take a variety of pictures of the items. Be sure to show any defects or less than perfect aspects. You'll also want to describe the defects in your listing. If you don't fully describe the item, you'll have an unhappy buyer to deal with.
7. If you take pictures with a smartphone, look for the eBay app, too. This will save lots of time because you don't have to transfer the pictures from phone to computer.
8. Gather shipping supplies. Get free boxes at the post office if you plan to use Priority Mail (I recommend it.)

9. Decide on the packaging you'll need for shipping your first items. Do this before you post the listing because you'll need to estimate the shipping cost. If you estimate it incorrectly you'll have to pay the difference out of your pocket. You also want to have the packaging materials on hand so that you can ship the same day as the sale (within 24 hours of the buyer paying.)



9. Now you're ready to list. Describe the item in detail. Choose the listing category. Fill in the details such as color, size, country of manufacture, etc. The more information you provide, the more confidence your buyer will be in getting the right item.

10. Once you sell something and the buyer has received it, rate the transaction. You want to do this as part of the give and take of eBay. You want to get positive ratings, and so do your customers.

Try it out and then learn more as you go through the process. It can be fun, especially when you hear that cha-ching sound on your phone or computer!