

How to Host a Clothing Swapmeet

*This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –
www.cheapskates.com.au*

You can spend a fortune on clothes and still end up with an overflowing wardrobe and nothing to wear.

A great alternative to buying more clothes and a fabulous way to save money, time and energy is to host a clothing swap meet. Invite as many friends as you possibly can, this way everyone should be able to find something they can use.

Getting Organized

Step 1. Set the theme for the swap – children's, adults, men's or women's.

Step 2. Invite everyone you know to a morning/afternoon tea or supper and clothes swap. Include family, friends, work colleagues, school mums, playgroup friends, neighbours – the more people attending the more there is to swap, the more successful the swap will be.

Step 3. Let them know that they can bring as many clothes, accessories, shoes and other items as they want to swap.

Step 4. Share the ground rules with everyone. A quick sheet done on the computer and printed on coloured paper can be stuck up on the day and emailed to everyone who has been invited.

The rules were simple:

1. Bring your used clothing, shoes, accessories, toys and anything else you want to swap (depending on the theme).
2. All the goods must be in clean and in good condition. No torn, stained or dirty goods can be swapped.
3. Swaps are to be made one for one*; no money is to change hands.

4. Leftover goods are to be donated to the Salvation Army (or charity of choice).

*This is a general rule. Individual swaps could be arranged as long as both parties agreed to it.

Step 5. If it is to be a children's swap, and children are present, then each mother takes a 10 minute turn at supervising the children in the backyard during the swap.

Step 6. Everyone helps to tidy up and do the dishes before they leave.

Step 7. Call the designated charity to arrange for pickup or drop the leftovers into the Op Shop straight away. Don't leave any leftovers hanging around. The nervous young mother sent out her invitations and waited.

Things to remember:

1. If you are hosting the swap in your home, only invite people you know.
2. This can easily be turned into a fundraiser for a pre-school or playgroup by having a gold coin donation for entry and selling morning/afternoon tea or supper.
3. There are no returns – if you have swapped it, it's yours!

*The Cheapskates Club
Showing you how to save money,
time and energy and still have fun!
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