

HOME SWEET Rewards

From HomeServices Relocation
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NEWS YOU CAN USE ABOUT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET

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How to Hygge Your Home

According to the World Happiness Report, three small countries are among the top ten happiest: Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. Could Scandinavia's high levels of contentedness be attributed to their fondness for all things cozy? Many Hygge converts seem to think so!

Learn all about Hygge (pronounced hoo-gah) and how to incorporate the “art of enjoying the good things in life with the good people around you” into your heart and home.

What is Hygge?

To best understand Hygge, you should get your definition straight from the source. *VisitDenmark* explains Hygge well, saying, “the warm glow of candlelight is hygge.



Coziness up with a loved one for a movie — that’s hygge, too. And there’s nothing more hygge than sitting around with friends and family, discussing the big and small things in life.”

Hygge is an appreciation for simplicity and comfort that extends beyond interior design. Danish people practice Hygge regularly, often using it to describe a pleasant dinner, a simple day at the beach, or an enjoyable interaction with a stranger.

Where does “Hygge” come from?

The word Hygge comes from “hugga,” a sixteenth-century Norse term meaning “to console” or “to comfort.” Interestingly, the English

word “hug” has similar origins. Coziness likely became entrenched in Nordic cultures as a way to not only cope but rather look forward to the region’s incredibly dark and long winters. As more people look to Scandinavian culture for inspiration on living simpler, happier lives, it’s not surprising that “Hygge” has become an “unofficial” term in American English, too!

How can I incorporate “Hygge” into my life?

Remember, though Hygge is often used to describe cozy interiors, you can incorporate it into various areas of your life — both in and outside of the home! See page two for a few ideas to get you started.



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Making Your Home Hygge (Continued)

1. If you don't love or need it, don't keep it.

Rather than bringing new items into your home, start by removing items you don't need — think: junk mail, old magazines, and old craft supplies. If you can't bring yourself to part with your things, consider hiding your clutter inside a Scandinavian-inspired chest.

2. Turn up the coziness

No matter the season, Hygge always has a place in your home. During winter months, create warmth and comfort with chunky knit blankets, fluffy pillows, a modern table lamp, and delicate fairy lights. In warmer seasons, incorporate beachy art and break out natural textiles like 100% cotton coverlets, wicker baskets, and macrame plant hangers.

3. Give your space a touch of greenery

A hygge home brings natural elements indoors. In addition to natural wood decor, incorporate plants into every room of your home. Add in no-maintenance greenery, like this faux plant wall, for an extra touch of whimsy and a pop of greenery!



4. Add candles

Nothing says "welcome home," like walking into a space filled with inviting scents and warm, glimmering candlelight. Use fragrant candles to create a comforting home environment, and opt for scents that "play well" with the season. If traditional candles are a no-go, incorporate flameless candles or fairy lights to create a warm glow.

5. Incorporate Scandinavian design and furnishings.

From dining chairs to bedroom sets, Nordic-inspired interior design prioritizes clean lines and functionality over maximalist adornment — making it the perfect fit for your hygge home. Consider steering clear from glam or ornate furnishings in favor of Modern Scandinavian furniture. ■

Source: CORT Furniture Rental

How to Price Items for a Garage Sale



Maybe you've sold a few things on a social media marketplace or made some donations to a local nonprofit organization, but now you're looking to get rid of several household items at once (and make a little fun money while doing it!). Get out your folding tables and pricing labels, here are some quick rules about pricing items for a garage sale.

Price Your Things To Sell

People come to garage sales because they want to get a deal. If you have something of real value and want to be paid what it's worth, consider selling it through another outlet like eBay or Poshmark.

Don't Devalue Your Big-Ticket Items Too Much

How do you make the most money at a garage sale? One of the best ways is by prioritizing the sale of your high-quality items, like collectibles, electronics, or furniture. To see what your things are worth, do some research online (again, eBay might be a good place to start) and note the prices of the items in new condition. Then, ask yourself what the condition is of your items (new, like new, used, etc.). Drop the price accordingly for items that have minimal to noticeable wear and tear.

Follow the 10%–20% Rule

Some people suggest pricing your items at only 10%–20% of their retail value. It may seem low, but it'll move your inventory quickly. If your item still has the tag on it, you may be able to get away with pricing it for up to 40% of the retail price.

Be Prepared To Haggle

Negotiations are a part of the garage sale process. It's half the fun! Know you'll likely be asked to lower the price, so consider that when presenting your opening number. How low are you willing to go?

Label Prices Individually

It's tempting to dump things in an "Everything's \$1" bin, but people may pick up items from different areas and not remember the original location, leaving you to do the guesswork. Doing a little work beforehand to label every item. ■ *Source: PODS Moving and Storage*



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Home Buying and Selling: How Comparables are Chosen



Whether you're selling your home or buying a home, your Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network professional will provide you with a comparative market analysis (CMA), a computer-generated report that shows you what homes similar to yours are selling for in your area, or how the home you're interested in buying compares to other homes on the market.

CMAs are only available to members of the local multiple listing service, which include licensed real estate agents, brokers, appraisers, real estate attorneys, and local property tax authorities. It takes skill and experience to create a report that can help you choose a listing price

range for your home or to help you make an offer on one of the homes you're seeing.

A CMA can be as narrow as a city block or as broad as a zip code. It can include data on homes for the latest week, month, or six-month period. It can show you homes for sale and those that have recently sold. CMAs can be made specific with search parameters that show only one-story homes, condos, or homes with swimming pools.

You may be pleased or dismayed by what the CMA shows, but you should know that it's an accurate depiction in real time of current market conditions.

■ Source: Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

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