

I'll Do It Myself

Take stock

Make a few notes about categories of items.

- Clutter, paper bags, newspapers, original tool boxes, junk in general
- Large power tools sitting on the floor
- Hand tools on workbenches, in cabinets or on racks
- Clamps, fixtures, tool aids, unidentifiable things
- Lumber, large boards
- Lumber, short pieces
- Lumber, plywood, furniture vs construction grade

Clean up a little

Throw away "junk". It is best to have someone not emotionally attached to the estate get rid of apparently useless things like old grocery bags, small scraps of wood, things that look like trash. Ideally enlist help from someone that is a little familiar with woodworking. Don't hang onto every tiny scrap of wood, even though some of it might find a home. Sweeping the floor can prepare you better mentally for the next step.

Organize things into piles

Sell, save, Goodwill, Church, neighborhood, trash

Small tools, cord power tools, floor power tools, fixtures, lumber, supplies

Disposition

- Give some things away to neighbors or friends
- Donate some to Goodwill, Restore, woodworking clubs, church, high school
- Garage sale and Craigslist
- Hire an estate management company
- On-line auctions

Lumber - What is good and what is not

Lumber usually falls into these categories:

Categories

Shorts & Cut-Offs – These are lumber pieces typically 1 to 3 feet long. Short pieces are usable by wood turners and high schools to make pens and other small items. The hobbyist woodworker can make use of many shorter boards, typically building small projects such as jewelry boxes. High school wood shop programs can typically use larger small boards.

Construction Materials – examples include decking material, plywood, MDF, molding, 2x4s, 2x6s cedar, pressure treated wood, pine, fir etc. Some of this can have value, but it is not the kind of lumber used by Guild members. This would be welcome at ReStore type outlets or a garage sale

Milled hardwoods – Surfaced hardwoods like maple, walnut, cherry, mahogany from ¼" to 1", widths from 3" – 12", and lengths from 2' to 8' are of high value to most Guild members. Need to check for bug damage and deep cracks but surface damage can generally be easily cleaned up. Small pieces of exotic and figured wood are also of great interest. Veneers in good condition are also of interest if stored properly. Damaged veneers reduce the value.

Blocks of wood for turning and carving – This type of wood can be anywhere from green to dry wood, large blocks of wood, half or full logs, burls, squares, rounds etc. These should be sealed with a waxy material on the end grain and be without deep cracks. Spalting (from bugs) is valued as long as the wood is not too soft. Often there will be exotics and other expensive woods. This type of wood is generally of interest to wood turners in the Guild or to other wood turning organizations.

Tool values

Search internet sites like Rockler, Woodcraft, Woodcrafters, Barbo machinery for comparable items to determine retail pricing. A reasonable sale price for used tools is about one-half of retail. If you want to move it, price it lower.