

# Craigslist Basics



Craigslist postings are online classifieds.

Much like traditional newspaper classifieds, Craigslist is separated into regions. Typically a Google search will result in the correct location based on your Internet connection.



<http://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photography-classified-ads-image340102>

Craigslist is a great service because it's so easy to use.

Craigslist also fills the gaps of many other websites for selling larger items and services.

We'll cover:

- What is Craigslist
- Buying
- Posting
- Selling
- Account
- Safety

Craigslist is a place to buy specific items, services, and housing/apartments. Craigslist is extremely open and includes all the sections (and more) of traditional classifieds.



- Large items (no shipping)
- All items are buy it now
- No fees (for most sales)
- Personal interaction
- Wider range of services
- Multiple postings

- Shipping
- PayPal
- No personal interaction
- ebay guarantees

First you'll want to make sure you are viewing the correct region (in our case Chicago).

Search Craigslist  
Chicago in Google.

[craigslist: chicago jobs, apartments, personals, for sale ...](https://chicago.craigslist.org/)

<https://chicago.craigslist.org/> ▾ Craigslist Inc. ▾

craigslist provides local classifieds and forums for jobs, housing, for sale, personals, services, local community, and events.

### Cars & trucks

[chicago cars & trucks - craigslist. ...](#)

[cars & trucks - allownerdealer ...](#)

### Jobs

[Oct 29 NOW HIRING ALL](#)

[POSITIONS FOR NEW UNCLE ...](#)

### Apts / Housing

[chicago apartments / housing rentals](#)

[... apartments / housing ...](#)

[More results from craigslist.org »](#)

### Chicago for sale

[chicago for sale - craigslist. ... Oct 29](#)

[SHOP FOR FURNITURE ...](#)

### Free Stuff

[chicago free stuff - craigslist. ... Oct](#)

[29 FREE 2 TVs At the curb ...](#)

### Northwest suburbs jobs ...

[Apts / housing - Furniture - Jobs - For](#)

[sale - General labor - Pets](#)

Once you get on Craigslist it can look overwhelming.

The screenshot shows the Craigslist Chicago homepage. At the top, the 'craigslist' logo is on the left, and 'chicago' with city codes (chc, nch, wcl, sox, nwi, nwc) is in the center. On the right, there's a language dropdown set to 'english' and a 'nearby cl' list of cities including Appleton, Battle Creek, Bloomington, etc.

Navigation links include 'post to classifieds' and 'my account'. A search bar is present with the text 'search craigslist' and a search input field.

The 'event calendar' shows a grid for the month of August, with the 29th highlighted.

Help links include 'help, faq, abuse, legal', 'avoid scams & fraud', 'personal safety tips', 'terms of use', 'privacy policy', and 'system status'.

Categories are organized into columns:

- community**: activities, artists, childcare, classes, events, general, groups, local news, lost+found, musicians, pets, politics, rideshare, volunteers.
- housing**: apts / housing, housing swap, housing wanted, office / commercial, parking / storage, real estate for sale, rooms / shared, rooms wanted, sublets / temporary, vacation rentals.
- for sale**: antiques, appliances, arts+crafts, atv/utv/sno, auto parts, baby+kid, barter, beautv+hlth, farm+garden, free, furniture, garage sale, general, heavy equip, household, jewelrv.
- jobs**: accounting+finance, admin / office, arch / engineering, art / media / design, biotech / science, business / mgmt, customer service, education, food / bev / hosp, general labor, government, human resources, internet engineers, legal / paralegal, manufacturing, marketing / pr / ad, medical / health, nonprofit sector, real estate, retail / wholesale.
- personals**: strictly platonic, women seek women, women seeking men, men seeking women, men seeking men, misc romance, casual encounters, missed connections, rants and raves.
- discussion forums**



Let's take a look to see what a specific seller's post looks like.

## Let's Try it!

1. Go to Craigslist.com
2. Create a new listing for Furniture
3. Attach images located on the desktop

With many users looking for goods or services on Craigslist, it's a perfect place to sell or rent.

Using your own email address, Craigslist creates a contact email which will be forwarded to your inbox.

Often sellers will also leave an additional phone number (see safety).

To Post click the post to classifieds button.

The screenshot shows the Craigslist website interface. At the top, the word "craigslist" is displayed in a large, blue, serif font. Below it, there are several navigation links: "post to classifieds" (highlighted in yellow), "my account", and "search craigslist". A search input field with the placeholder text "search" is visible. Below the search field is an "event calendar" section, which is a grid showing the days of the week (M, T, W, T, F, S, S) and the dates (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15). To the right of the main content area, there is a "comm" section with a list of categories: activities, artists, childcare, classes, events, general, groups, local, lost, mu:, pet:, poli, ride, and volu. Below this is a "perso" section with the link "strictly platonic".

Then select the corresponding categories for your item.

what type of posting is this: (see [prohibited](#) list before posting.)

- job offered
- gig offered (I'm hiring for a short-term, small or odd job)
- resume / job wanted
  
- housing offered
- housing wanted
  
- for sale by owner
- for sale by dealer
- wanted by owner
- wanted by dealer
  
- service offered
  
- personal / romance
  
- community
- event / class

continue

please choose a category: (see [prohibited](#) list and [recall information](#) before posting.)

- antiques - by owner
- appliances - by owner
- arts & crafts - by owner
- atvs, utvs, snowmobiles - by owner
- auto parts - general - by owner
- auto parts - wheels & tires - by owner
- baby & kid stuff - by owner (no illegal sales of [recall items](#), e.g. drop-side cribs, [recalled strollers](#))
- barter
- bicycle parts - by owner
- bicycles - by owner
- boat parts - by owner
- boats - by owner
- books & magazines - by owner
- business/commercial - by owner
- cars & trucks - by owner
- cds / dvds / vhs - by owner (no pornography please)
- cell phones - by owner
- clothing & accessories - by owner

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# Should I make an account?

Although there are no rules, the users that most benefit from accounts are:

1. frequent sellers
2. regular buyers

Free classified posts on craigslist can be **renewed**. Renewing a post will move that post to the top of the list.

You can renew an active free post as long as 48 hours have elapsed since it was initially posted, or if 48 hours have elapsed since it was last renewed.

Please note that renewing a post will not extend its [lifespan](#), and once a post is 30 days old you will lose the ability to renew it.



## Expirations by Posting Type

Posting Type	Expires
Jobs	30 days
Free: For Sale, Housing, Personals, Services, Community	7-45 days*
Gigs, Resumes	30-45 days*
Events	Depends
Paid: NYC broker apartments	30 days
Paid: Cars & Trucks by Dealer, Tickets by Dealer	30 days
Paid: Therapeutic	7 days

\* varies by city

You can renew a post with an account.

( page: 1 2 postings 1 - 50 of 58 total )

status	manage	posting title	
Deleted	<a href="#">undelete</a>	<a href="#">auto part for car - \$89</a>	van
Active	<a href="#">edit</a> <a href="#">delete</a>	<a href="#">Skilled home interior painter -</a>	sfo
Active	<a href="#">edit</a> <a href="#">delete</a>	<a href="#">Pontoon boat - \$25000</a>	sfo
Active	<a href="#">edit</a> <a href="#">delete</a> <a href="#">renew</a>	<a href="#">Cool bike - \$150</a>	sfo

If you try to post something similar to an active post of yours on the site, you may get a blocked message.

Craigslist as mentioned before is extremely unfiltered. While the majority of users have not had problems, there have been several crimes committed using Craigslist *(although usually through the dating links)*.

- When selling, always meet buyers away from your home if possible
- Post as little personal information as possible
- Always see items in person before you purchase them
- Bring a friend or let someone know where you're going
- And finally **be cynical** if something seems too good to be true, a little off, or questionable -- walk away or verify a buyer or seller's legitimacy.