

HOW TO ORGANISE YOUR OWN SWISHING PARTY

At a swishing event, a group of people get together to swap clean wearable clothing, shoes, bags, accessories or jewellery.

You could have a small informal swish with friends or you may want to organise a larger event. The following guidelines are designed to get you started.

GETTING ORGANISED

Decide on a suitable venue, date and time and send out invitations or advertise the event. You should allow time for donating items before the swapping begins.

Ask everyone to blitz their wardrobes and decide what they would like to exchange. You may wish to set out some guidelines about any items that you don't want to accept (for example swimwear or underwear).

Think about how you will display the clothing and accessories; it could be on shelves, rails, chairs or doors – whatever space allows.

Although the aim is to find new homes for everything donated, the chances are you'll have some items left over. You will need to plan what you will do with these items afterwards – possibly donate them to a local charity shop.

HOW THE SWISH WORKS

People arrive, donate their items and receive a token for each piece they bring.

Display the donated items in sizes or by types. Guests can then be given time to start looking through the goodies. It may be helpful to have refreshments available during this time.

Once most of the people have arrived, explain the rules and announce the starting time.

Countdown to the opening of 'The Swish'.

THE RULES

Everybody must bring at least one item.

When it opens whatever people take is theirs.

No money should be exchanged – all 'swishable' clothes are free to whoever claims them first in exchange for one of their tokens.

If two people are fighting over the same garment then toss a coin, or equivalent. Be firm and fair!

No-one can claim items as their own before the swish is declared open.

