

Old piano: sell or dispose? 8-step checklist

Universal Piano - GTA homeowner guide 2026

Work through these 8 steps before you call anyone

1 Find the maker and serial number

Look inside the lid and above the keys. Google the name plus 'piano history'. Known Canadian or major global makers are worth a closer look.

2 Check the soundboard for cross-grain cracks

Hairline with-grain cracks are fine. A wide crack, or a crack across the grain, is a structural failure.

3 Inspect the bridges for splits

Split bridges or loose pins are expensive to fix. Skip resale.

4 Play every key twice

Listen for silent keys, double strikes, buzzes. Two or three dead keys is normal. Eight is a scrap piano.

5 Measure access path and stairs

Note every doorway width, every turn, and every flight. Movers quote based on these.

6 Get two photo appraisals before listing

Email 5 photos to two dealers. Ask 'worth selling?' and 'typical price?'

7 If selling: get it tuned first

A tuned piano sells. An untuned piano sits. Tuning is \$180 to \$250 in the GTA.

8 If disposing: never leave on the curb overnight

Book a professional removal or a municipal bulky-item pickup before move day.