

Secondhand Style: Savers/Value Village Insider Shopping Tips

Whether looking for one-of-a-kind pieces, vintage fashions, or simply an amazing deal, thrift store shopping is more popular than ever amongst fashionistas and bargain-hunters alike. Whether you're a seasoned 'thrifter' or if you've never stepped foot inside a secondhand store, Savers/Value Village international chain of thrift stores offers the following tips for scoring fantastic deals.

Get the Latest Looks

- ✓ Sporting an individual style is the latest fashion movement and thrift stores have no shortage of **funky finds**. Mix things like bright lace, cowboy belts and big jewelry with basics for a bold style all your own.
- ✓ **Vintage and retro** are always coveted scores – but because these styles resurge, examine the label for authenticity. Labels from decades gone-by are usually easy to spot by the artwork and appearance.
- ✓ **Accessories** are fun thrift store finds. Always-popular **antique brooches and earrings** are just a few dollars, while inexpensive **scarves** add flair to any outfit with multiple ways to wear.
- ✓ **Big belts** are also big in fashion this year, and thrift stores usually have piles to choose from. Try mixing and matching hardware from one belt to another for a new look, or find a long skirt in a cool fabric and shred it into a belted sash.

Wear & Tear Repairs

- ✓ Use slightly worn clothes as canvases to **create customized fashions** with bleach pens, fabric paints, material scraps and more. Try working some magic on worn white canvas shoes, an abundant secondhand find.
- ✓ Look for pieces with a good basic shape and quality fabric – with a good base to work from, **dye can restore faded clothing to its original richness or change the color entirely**. Need a black turtleneck? Pick up a white one and a box of black dye for a new-to-you basic.
- ✓ Check thoroughly for holes, including the back of collars and sleeve seams. But remember, many **nicks and spots are easily covered with fun appliqués** and patches.
- ✓ Don't bypass the shoe section – **they can easily be re-soled and re-heeled**, so if they're in otherwise good condition, go for it!
- ✓ Try things on and **don't rely on tag sizes**. Clothing could have shrunk in the wash or could've been tailored from its original size.

Maximize Time & Money

- ✓ **Don't miss secondhand staples** like t-shirts, jeans, coats, turtlenecks, sweaters. No sense in paying full retail for basics that can be restyled easily and inexpensively.
- ✓ **Scout for new clothes with tags still attached**. Kids outgrow garments so fast that unworn clothing frequently lands on secondhand shelves at prices far less expensive than department stores – especially baby and toddler finds, and kids' dress clothes.
- ✓ **Dress to try things on quickly and easily, especially during busy sale days**. Slip-on shoes, minimal layers, and thin, fitted undershirts are good options. A great tip for pants is to wrap the waist band around the neck – if the ends touch comfortably, they will more than likely fit.
- ✓ **Shop early and often and keep an eye out for specials**. Many thrift stores offer discounts on certain colored tagged items week by week, so look for promotional signage. Also, seek out thrift store websites and sign up for e-newsletters to be alerted of special sales and discounts.
- ✓ **Look in multiple departments**. A kids' large might fit small teens, and girls love looking for blazers in the boys section. Also, for accessories like belts and hats, check both the men's and women's departments which tend to have crossover items.

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