

25 Things You Should Always Buy From a Thrift Store

1. **Books.** I buy books to read, books to decorate with, and even books that are falling apart. The pages can be used for other projects or illustrations pulled out to frame. And speaking of frames...

2. **Frames.** Most of the frames in my house have come from thrift stores. I use them as they were intended, to hold photos, or for other purposes, like displaying jewelry. You can also turn them into inspiration boards, chalkboards, magnet boards, or bulletin boards. I like to paint the more ornate ones. It makes the detail really stand out.

3. **Seasonal Decor.** Much of my holiday decor has also been bought at thrift stores. Sometimes I get it so cheap I buy it before the holiday and then donate it after!

4. **Furniture.** We've bought kitchen and dining tables, end tables, china cabinets, chairs, and even a couch at thrift stores. For some reason some stores around us always seem to have better furniture. All of the furniture in the photo on page 1 was under \$50.

5. **Salt and Pepper Shakers.** I buy salt and pepper shakers all the time for 25-50 cents. The only time I've ever paid more than \$1 is for some really fancy crystal shakers. I turn them into ornaments, necklaces, photo holders, and more.

6. **Dishes.** Especially vintage dishes! My hubby loves brown drip pottery so that's one of the things I'm always looking for.

7. **Glasses, Cups, Mugs.** As long as they don't have chips or cracks these can be washed and even bleached before you use them. And if they do have chips and cracks, plant some succulents in them!

8. **Leather Belts.** Buy them to wear but don't pass up old worn out belts either. They can be made into bracelets or used as straps on totes or bags.

9. **Leather Purses, Bags, Backpacks, and Totes.** My daughter is really good at finding these on our thrifting adventures. One of my all-time favorite purses was found at a thrift store. When it wore out I turned it into bracelets.

10. **Candlesticks.** I think I see candlesticks every time I go to the thrift store. Glass, metal, wood, ceramic, silver... just about any material you can think of. Think outside the box for these, too. Don't just use them for candles. You can glue plates or pie tins on top to make your own cake or cookie display.

11. **Toys.** IF they have a hard surface that can be bleached. Or vintage toys that can be cleaned but they won't be played with by kids.

12. **Tools.** I don't really look for tools anymore since I don't have a garage to store them in. Look for power tools, hand tools, and garden tools.

13. **Mirrors.** I love finding good mirrors to makeover! Usually I paint the frames.

14. **Baskets.** I see baskets in just about every thrift store I go to, also. And did you know that they're super easy to paint? Use them for storage or decor.

15. **Jewelry Cabinets and Boxes.** If you read my blog you'll know that I buy LOTS of jewelry cabinet and boxes! I paint them and have learned different techniques to cover stained fabric and ugly or broken glass doors.

16. **Trays.** These are really cheap at thrift stores and so helpful to have in the kitchen, coffee table, bathroom, or craft room for rounding up smaller items. I especially like the wooden trays which I usually paint and decoupage.

17. **Costume Jewelry.** I buy lots of old jewelry, even (or ESPECIALLY) if it's broken. You can usually get it really cheap. Often a whole jar full for \$5-20. I turn it into new pieces of jewelry or repurposed Christmas ornaments or other decor.

18. **Vases.** I don't think I've EVER bought a new vase. And remember that glass can be painted (on the outside if you're going to put water in them).

19. **Napkin Rings.** Many times I find these in good shape and just use them as is. Other times I buy them to update with paint, beads, or fabric.

20. **Vintage Silverware.** There are so many options for old silverware! Of course, you can eat with it. Lots of people stamp on it. And recently I saw a project where the creator dipped them in paint. I can't wait to try that.

21. **Cast Iron.** This seems to be getting harder to find. At least in our area. But there's nothing like cooking with cast iron. And most of it can be cleaned if you're willing to put in a little elbow grease!

22. **Casserole Dishes and Pie Plates.** I buy pie plates and tins all year long so when my hubby goes on his baking spree at Christmas we can give pies away without worrying about getting the dishes back. Same with the casseroles. Send a meal over to a family in need and tell them to just keep the dish or pass it along to someone else.

23. **"Ugly" Art.** My hubby gives me a hard time about my "ugly" art collection but I love finding paintings by amateur artists and paint-by-numbers.

24. **Vintage Luggage.** These are great for extra storage. I've also painted a suitcase as a chalkboard and we used a small vintage suitcase to hold cards.

25. **Wood Coat Hangers.** I find these all the time for 25 cents. I've collected enough to fill our coat closet plus I made special hangers for all Jordann's bridesmaids last year.

Thanks for joining my email list! All these upcycled projects can be seen on my blog: www.DuctTapeAndDenim.com . Check your inboxes for future projects.