



Reconnect
Hamilton

Your Ultimate Guide To

THRIFTING



reconnectHamilton.ca

Welcome to Reconnect Hamilton

We're thrilled to have you join our growing community! As part of Reconnect, you can expect to find a curated calendar of exciting events happening in your city, free guides for everything from the best hiking trails to vegetable gardening, and plenty of ways to get better connected with your community.

We are dedicated to reconnecting you with nature and your neighbours. Visit reconnecthamilton.ca to see an interactive map of events happening in your city.

To thank you for joining us, we've created this guide to help you become an expert thrifter and find the best second-hand stores near you!

Whether you're looking to save money, find unique pieces, or embrace sustainable shopping, thrifting can be fun, rewarding, and even addictive. This guide is packed full of tips and tricks to make the most of your shopping trip. You'll be saying, "Thanks, it's thrifted!" in no time.

Deanna Hove
Hamilton Coordinator





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The Benefits of Thrifting

Why should you spend your time digging through second-hand items when you could order something brand new at the click of a button?



1 Live more sustainably

Thrifting is more sustainable than buying new because it:

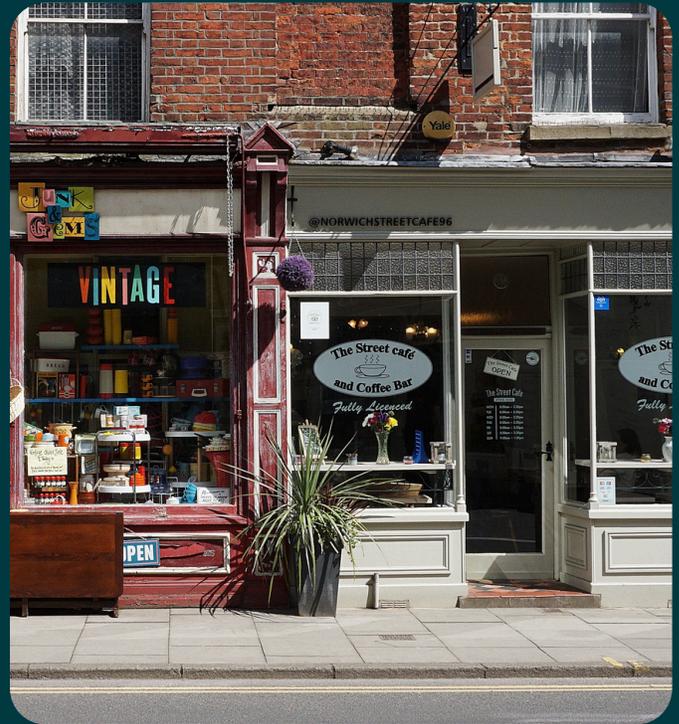
- Reduces the amount of items headed to landfills.
- Conserves natural resources, such as water, energy, and raw material that would be used to manufacture, package, and transport something new.
- Encourages a more conscious approach to consumption; rather than impulse buying trending items, you are thoughtfully picking out things that you truly love.

2 Save money

While thrift stores are not exempt from rising costs, there is no comparison for the level of quality you can find at thrift store prices. With some patience and experience, you will find high-end clothing, accessories, housewares, and more, for a fraction of what they would cost new.

Did You Know? The world consumes around 80 billion pieces of clothing every year—400% more than 20 years ago! Canada consumed an estimated 1.3 million tonnes of apparel in 2021; of that, almost 1.1 million tonnes were thrown away.

[Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)



3 Elevate your style

With the increase in mass production and the use of cheaper materials to reduce costs, many products being made today are not built to last.

Thrifting is a great way to find products that have stood the test of time. You can find items that were made of high-quality materials, have been hand-crafted, or made in smaller batches.

Thrifting is also one of the best ways to create a unique wardrobe or beautifully decorated home. You will find things from every era and from all around the world.

4 Support local businesses & charities

There are many charities and small, local stores selling second-hand items. Buying locally supports job creation and small business owners in your city or town. You are also fostering a connection with your neighbours who often play a key role in supporting your community.



5 Connect with your community and have fun!

As any thrifting enthusiast will tell you, there is nothing like the thrill of finding a cool piece of furniture or a vintage sweater for a few bucks at the thrift store.

The thrifting community is also very supportive and almost always up for gushing over the amazing finds they see in your cart! If you go often, expect compliments and interesting conversations when you are walking the aisles of your local thrift store. Go ahead and tell someone you love what they found!

How to Make the Most of Your Thrift Trip



Bring the essentials

Reusable bags: Not all stores offer bags and you might just have a haul to take home!

Natural hand sanitizer: Thrift stores can be dusty.

Water bottle/snack: You might be browsing for a while and you don't want to get hangry (check that the store allows beverages/snacks).

Cash: Some stores don't accept cards or they offer discounts for cash to avoid credit card processing fees.

Phone: For looking up the history or value of an item. [Google Lens](#) will be your best friend!

Measuring tape: Useful for furniture or checking clothing sizes.

List of measurements: Useful if you are looking for pieces of furniture that need to fit in a specific space.

***Tip:** Many stores don't have fitting rooms. If you are planning to shop for clothes, wear something you can easily layer clothing on top of, such as leggings or a fitted t-shirt.

Start with a plan

- Give yourself enough time. Thrifting is a marathon, not a sprint. You need to take your time to thoroughly check each section (check every shelf, under stacks of items, and go through each clothing item on a rack).
- If there is something specific you are looking for, head to that section first to avoid running out of time or forgetting what you came for.
- Grab a cart or basket! If you see something you are interested in, put it in your cart even if you aren't 100% sure you will buy it—there is usually only one of each item and it can quickly be picked up by someone else. Before you leave, go through the items and decide what you want to purchase. Just make sure you put the items you don't want back in the section you got them from or on a designated put-back rack.
- Look for collections people have decided to leave behind. You can usually find this by the mirrors in the clothing section, for example. People often leave great items behind because they didn't fit or they changed their mind.
- Check the new arrivals sections or the carts that employees are unloading. These haven't been picked through by other thrifters yet.

Save (even more) money

- **Colour tags / sales:** Some thrift stores use colour-coded tags to indicate sales. For example, a store may offer 30% off items with a red tag on Wednesdays. Make sure you know what colour tag is on sale that day if the store you're in uses this system. Check the store's website or social media for info on sales.
- **Senior or student discounts:** Many thrift stores offer senior and/or student discounts on specific days of the week. Check your local thrift store's website for more info.
- **Coupons:** Thrift stores often offer a coupon for their store when you donate your items. For example, Value Village offers a 20% off \$50 coupon when you donate items you no longer want or need.
- **Rewards program:** Many thrift stores offer rewards programs, where you gain points for every dollar you spend that convert to dollars off your purchase after a certain number of points. Some stores also email or text you coupons and store updates.

Evaluate items carefully

- Look for cracks, chips, rips, stains, missing buttons, etc. You can hold clothing up to the light to check for holes.
- Make sure clothing fits you correctly or can be easily tailored to suit your needs. Many thrift stores do not allow returns and only offer exchanges for clothing.
- Test electronics. Many stores have designated outlets/stations for testing. If you are in the market for an item that would take standard size batteries, bring a couple battery types with you for testing.
- Get to know the look and feel of quality materials so it becomes easier to spot high-end products. Clothing, accessories, and home goods made from natural materials, such as cotton, linen, silk, wool, cashmere, leather, wood, metals, or stone, look more expensive, were likely made with greater care, and will outlast mass-produced, plastic products.
 - Always check clothing tags to see their composition and avoid synthetic materials when possible, as these are mostly plastic!
 - Synthetic materials that are made of plastic include, polyester, nylon, acrylic, polypropylene, lycra, elastane, and fleece.



Did You Know? Synthetic clothing is the **leading cause of microplastic pollution**. Polyester alone makes up about 54% of global fibre production and, when washed, it sheds plastic microfibers that end up in our water, food, &, eventually, our bodies.

[Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

How to Find a Diamond in the Rough



1 Go on the best days

Generally, the best days to thrift are right before and after the weekend, when there is new inventory being stocked and it is less crowded. But each store is different—test a few days out or ask the employees what days they think are best.

2 Thrift often

Inventory changes constantly. The people who always find the best stuff aren't just lucky; they go frequently!

3 Look everywhere

Items get put down all over the store, so look in aisles you wouldn't normally frequent and check clothing racks that aren't normally your size.

4 Don't shop seasonally

It may seem bizarre to look through the fall jackets in the middle of July, but you will get better deals and find items other people aren't looking for. You will thank yourself come October!

5 Look for potential

Could that desk be painted? Could that candy dish be used as a catch-all? Look for ways to upcycle or use an item in a different way than it was originally intended.

6 Be patient

Don't expect to hit the jackpot every trip. Building a collection of thrifted items takes time.

The Best Thrift Stores in Hamilton



The Millionaire's Daughter

Store Type: Consignment

Address: 272 Ottawa Street North, Hamilton

Hours: Monday to Saturday: 10 AM – 5 PM; Sunday: 11 AM – 4 PM

Types of merchandise: Furniture & Decor

Website: <https://themillionairesdaughter.com/>

Discount coupon provided for donating: When you consign your fine furnishings, you'll receive 45% of the final sale price for each item sold.

Dive into a world of style and comfort with their curated selection of over 2,000 unique pieces. From timeless classics to modern marvels, there's something for everyone to discover and love

Did You Know? It takes approximately 2,700 liters of water to produce 1 cotton t-shirt. It is estimated that the fashion industry consumes 79 trillion litres of water per year & is responsible for about 20% of industrial water pollution.

To protect our health & environment, it is critical we keep our bodies of water clean & safe. We can help by reducing the number of brand new products we purchase.

[Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)



Out of The Past

Store Type: Vintage 2nd hand

Address: 308 Ottawa Street North, Hamilton

Hours: Saturday: 11 AM – 6 PM; Sunday: 12 PM – 6 PM

Types of merchandise: Clothing and accessories

Website: <https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/outofthepastclothing>

Change rooms available: Yes

Stylish and thoughtfully curated collection includes the area's largest selection of vintage clothing and accessories. Highly recommended based on a large number of online reviews.



St. Vincent de Paul Value Store

Store Type: Consignment - it is a Charity and its employees are volunteers

Address: 429 Barton Street East, Hamilton

Hours: Wednesday to Saturday: 10 AM – 4 PM; Sunday to Tuesday: Closed

Types of merchandise: Clothing, housewares, books, electronics, etc.

Website: <https://www.ssvp429barton.ca/>

Discount coupon provided for donating: Get \$5 off your next purchase when you spend \$10 or more.

A favourite for low prices on clothes and furniture, the store is very clean and well-organized. Only cash and debit are accepted. This charity has a strong impact on the community and social causes.



The River Trading Company

Store Type: Consignment

Address: 559 Barton St E, Hamilton

Hours: Sunday - Thursday: 12 PM - 7 PM; Friday & Saturday: 12 PM - 9 PM

Types of merchandise: Used books

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/therivertradingcompany>

Rewards program available: Will buy back books or offer a book exchange for in-store credit.

River Trading Company is an independent bookstore in Barton Village and connects book lovers with used and vintage books.



The Giving Closet Thrift Shop

Store Type: Consignment store - Charity and employees are volunteers

Address: 1162 Barton Street East, Hamilton

Hours: Tues-Thurs: 11 AM - 5 PM; Fri: 11 AM - 8 PM; Sat: 10 AM - 4 PM; Mon & Sun: closed

Types of merchandise: Clothing, housewares, books, electronics, etc.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/thegivingclosetthriftshop/>

Change rooms available: Yes

Discount coupon provided for donating: Get 10% off your next purchase when you donate

The Giving Closet Thrift Shop is a new neighbourhood thrift store, whose profits are reinvested into the community. Donations accepted on Tuesday & Friday 11AM-4:30 PM and Saturday: 10 AM-3:30 PM.



Lucky Find Store

Store Type: Thrift Store

Address: 563 Barton St, Stoney Creek

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 9 AM - 9 PM; Sunday: 10 AM - 7 PM

Types of merchandise: Shoes

Website: <https://luckyfindstore.ca/>

Located in the heart of Stoney Creek, this store has a large collection of curated shoes, bags, and accessories for men, women, and kids. High-quality fashion at affordable prices.



Value Village

Store Type: Chain Thrift Store

Address: 120 Portia Drive, Ancaster

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 9 AM - 9 PM; Sunday: 10 AM - 7 PM

Types of merchandise: Clothing, housewares, books, electronics, etc.

Website: <https://stores.savers.com/on/ancaster/valuevillage-thrift-store-2141.html>

Discount coupon provided for donating: Get 20% off when you donate (max of \$10 off).

Rewards program available: Sign up to gain points for every dollar you spend.

Value Village partners with local non-profit organizations and helping fund community programs.



Westside Stories

Store Type: Consignment

Address: 624 Upper James Street, Hamilton

Hours: Mon- Fri: 10 AM - 9 PM; Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday: 11 AM - 5 PM

Types of merchandise: Used books.

Website: www.westsidestories.ca

Rewards program available: Will trade books for in-store credit on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Books in good condition that were originally purchased from Westside Stories will be automatically accepted for credit. Students get a 10% discount.

Charming store with an amazing selection of used books. Offers slowed down and personal experiences for shoppers.



Play It Again Sports

Store Type: Consignment

Address: 624 Upper James Street, Hamilton

Hours: Monday- Friday: 10 AM - 9 PM; Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday: 11 AM - 5 PM

Types of merchandise: Sports and fitness gear.

Website: <https://playitagainsports.com/>

Rewards program available: Earn points every time you shop or sell, and get first access to exclusive discounts and promotions.

Play It Again Sports buys and sells quality used sports and fitness gear.



Giving Hope Today

The Salvation Army

Store Type: Chain Thrift Store - Charity

Address: 250 King Street East, Hamilton

Hours: Monday - Friday: 10 AM - 8 PM; Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday: closed

Types of merchandise: Clothing, housewares, books, electronics, etc.

Website: <https://www.thriftstore.ca>

Discount coupon provided for donating: Get 20% off your next purchase when you donate.

National charitable organization directly providing social services and support to society's most vulnerable.



ReStore (Habitat for Humanity)

Store Type: Thrift store - Charity

Address: 285 Nash Road, Unit 1 and 1525 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton

Hours: Nash Location: Monday to Friday: 9 AM-5 PM, Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM

Stone Church Location: Monday to Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM

Types of merchandise: Home renovation materials

Website: <https://habitat.ca/en>

Rewards program available: All donations to the Hamilton ReStore are eligible for a tax receipt.

Habitat ReStores are independently owned reuse stores operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations. The sales from donated items help Habitat for Humanity partner with local families to build, rehabilitate, and repair safe and affordable homes.



Talize

Store Type: Independent Thrift Store - Charity: partnerships with Cornerstone to Recovery and SickKids Foundation

Address: 1400 Upper James Street, Hamilton

Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 AM – 8 PM; Saturday & Sunday: 10 AM – 6 PM

Types of merchandise: Shoes, bags, and accessories for men, women, and kids

Website: www.westsidestories.ca

Change rooms available: Yes

Discount coupon provided for donating: \$5 coupon that can be used towards your next purchase when you spend \$25 or more in a single transaction.

Large selection of used items. 30% Senior discount every Tuesday and 10% discount for students every day. Additional in-store promotions available.



Bash Appliances

Store Type: Thrift

Address: 945 Upper James St., Hamilton

Hours: Monday to Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday: Closed

Types of merchandise: Appliances.

Website: <https://www.bashappliances.ca/>

Donations not accepted.

Offers a wide range of products, including kitchen appliances, laundry machines, and range hoods.



Goodnews Thrift Store

Store Type: Thrift store

Address: 749A Barton St East, Hamilton

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM; Sunday: closed.

Types of merchandise: Clothing and accessories

Website: no website

Large collection of clothing and accessories. Wholesale clothing is sold by weight.



Reloved Boutique

Store Type: Consignment

Address: 226 James Street North, Hamilton

Hours: Tues to Fri: 11 AM -6 PM; Sat: 11 AM-5 PM; Sun: 12 PM-5 PM; Monday: Closed

Types of merchandise: Women's clothing, shoes and accessories.

Website: <https://www.there lovedboutique.com/>

Change rooms available: Yes

Selected items that are dropped off are catalogued to your account. The funds from your sold items accumulate in your account for a store credit or to be paid out. Trendy, casual, and stylish women's clothing, shoes, and accessories. In-house alterations available. Clothing that has not been sold at the boutique is donated to a local women's shelter.

Cleaning Your New Finds



Price stickers: You can easily remove price stickers using warm water, soap, and a sponge. Use the tip of a spoon to scrape stubborn glue after soaking it in warm water.

Difficult to clean items: If a piece of furniture that is difficult to clean has an unpleasant odour, spray it down with vodka and let it dry in the sun. This works to refresh clothing too!

Clothing: Read the labels on your clothing and follow the instructions to wash or dry-clean before wearing. If you have a hand-wash setting on your washing machine, this is best for delicate fabrics that don't require dry-cleaning. Air dry anything delicate, such as silk or linen.

Shoes: Be careful when removing price stickers from insoles—they can cause damage on more delicate shoes. Wipe down and disinfect insoles.

Most sneakers can be thrown in the wash and air dried. I suggest putting them in a cotton garment or laundry bag to dampen the sound and protect the washing machine.



Happy Thrifting!

Found something amazing at the thrift? Post it on Instagram, use the hashtag #thriftingcommunity and tag us @re_connection_project to be featured on our page.

Stay tuned for future guides on everything from the best local hiking trails to sustainable cooking. We hope to Reconnect with you in our newsletter soon!



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