



## How to...

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

National Thrift Shop  
Day takes place each  
year on August 17.



# Go thrifting like a pro

**Learn how to score clothing at secondhand stores instead of buying brand-new.**

**T**hrifting—buying used items at a store that specializes in secondhand goods—is a growing trend, including among young people. Buying used clothes instead of new ones is less expensive, and it's fun to hunt for special outfits. Thrifting is also better for the environment because clothing production uses a lot of water, as well as chemicals that can be harmful to the Earth, and garments that are thrown away end up in landfills. Here's how to thrift for an impressive haul.

### Do some research

You may have already heard of popular thrift stores like Goodwill and the Salvation Army. You can search online for "thrift stores" plus your zip code to find other shops in your area. Before you go, make sure they sell the kinds of items you might be looking for, like clothing in kids sizes.

### Set a budget

Ask a parent how much you can spend, and find out when the store offers sales for even deeper discounts. Some thrift shops also issue discounts to students.



**Look closely  
for great finds.**

### Target your hunt

Thrift stores are packed with clothes, which can be overwhelming. So plan in advance: Do you need a new top for the first day of school? Are you looking for vintage concert T-shirts or a pair of jeans? To avoid crowds, arrive early with your wish list in hand.

### Look for quality

Skip clothes that are stained or faded, and if something has a zipper, check that it works.

If the item has defects beyond repair, move on to the next one. Scan the racks for specific brands you love—at thrift stores, you can score great quality at a bargain price.

### Clean your purchases

Once you get home, wash garments immediately according to the instructions on the labels. You can use a disinfecting wipe on bags and shoes. Sprinkle some baking soda inside shoes to freshen them up. Let them sit overnight, and shake out the excess the next day. Finally, enjoy the feeling of knowing you've thrifted new additions to your closet while saving money and helping the planet.

## Mend old clothes



**If you get a hole in a favorite shirt or pair of pants, you can repair it with these steps.**

**Pick your fabric** Cut a square piece that is slightly larger than the hole. Place it over the tear, and attach it with safety pins.

**Sew on the patch** Using a needle and thread, secure the patch. To make a stitch, push the needle up through the clothing and the patch, then back down. Repeat until you've sewn all the edges of the patch.

**Finish it up** Knot the thread, cut it off, and remove the safety pins. You may like the item of clothing even more now that it has a fun patch!