

## Amazing Finds at the Goodwill near you!

I love to go “thrift” shopping! Who wouldn’t, when the items found in the stores are, in many cases, just pennies on the dollar compared to their original asking price. And if you are like me, I’m sure you want to make the most of your thrift store shopping excursion. I’ve got a lot of experience in this area and would like to provide you with a few tips to make your Goodwill shopping experience ‘amazing’!

**Have a plan.** Do you know what items your wardrobe is lacking? These are the items you must look for first. Be on a mission. Luckily for us Goodwill Stores are organized by size and color to make it simple to locate that “Amazing Find”.

**Be prepared.** Wear clothing to the store that is easy to put on and take off. You’ll want to make trying on items fun, not a huge chore.

**Choose items wisely.** Goodwill Stores are the place to find those unbelievable bargains in high quality, name brand merchandise. Items like wool sweaters, leather hand bags & shoes, children’s clothes, maternity wear, designer labels and unique vintage goods are what you want to look for. Be discerning when it comes to buying. Be sure the item fits and is in good shape.

**Shop often.** With thousands of donations received daily at each store, merchandise changes continuously. You never know when that designer pair of jeans or hand bag is going to make it onto the shelves. The inventory is dynamic!

**Don't hesitate.** If something catches your eye ... grab it quickly! Most items are one-of-a-kind and there are no second chances.

Here are some fabulous items I found while shopping for our upcoming fashion photo shoot:

- *Christian Dior* tie \$1.49
- *BCBG Max Azria* men’s shirt \$3.99
- *Vintage Jack Feith* velvet evening jacket \$4.99
- Mod 1960’s color blocked women’s tote \$2.99
- Thick braided leather belt \$2.99
- *Chaps Ralph Lauren* suit coat from



*Vintage Jack Feith* velvet evening jacket \$4.99



*Chaps Ralph Lauren* suit coat \$6.99



*Stuart Weitzman* designer pumps \$4.99

- Nordstrom's Department Store \$6.99
- Vintage *Stanley Blacker* French cuff shirt \$2.99
- Soft suede skirt \$4.99
- Vintage *Beau Brummell* necktie \$1.49 (I saw this same item for sale online for \$38!)
- Designer women's silk scarf \$1.49
- Vintage look satin handbag \$2.99
- *Stuart Weitzman* designer pumps \$4.99
- Leather motorcycle jacket \$6.99

**TOTAL**= \$49.37! Less than \$50.00 for all that fabulousity!

On another excursion, I found a vintage 70s modern wicker lamp for \$3.99, as well as a corbel, (an architectural piece that forms the top of a support column) for only \$4.99! It was already refinished and could easily be used as a plant stand or small side table. Remember your home can be as stylish as you are, and all it takes is a little imagination and creativity.

In addition to the donations from the community, some Goodwill stores receive new items as well. They may come from an area business donating discontinued goods, a small retailer going out of business or even a large chain discount store donating open box items. Look for those new tags!

If you are in need of a style infusion for your wardrobe, follow my thrift store shopping tips and I'm sure your next trip to a Goodwill Store will be 'amazing'!