

HOW TO THRIFT SHOP



LIKE A

PRO

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1. Know Your Criteria

Do you ever visit thrift stores, wander around, and wonder what all that "junk" could be good for?

Without a criteria list, it can look like so much junk - and it's hard to have a vision for how any of it can be made into something cute, clever, or fabulous.

Developing a criteria list, however, will help you visually sift through the racks and shelves, and easily pick out the pieces that are worth consideration.

So what is this list and how do you develop it?

Your Thrift Find Criteria List

Don't confuse a criteria list with a shopping list. (More about this in chapter 2.)

Your criteria list will actually help you build your shopping list! By determining the types of items you want to look for, you can eliminate everything else, giving you a clearer focus as you shop.

This list contains all the characteristics that you find appealing - and that's what makes them a bargain for **you!**



Your list will contain at least 3 reasons why you'd give a piece a second look, but you can certainly add more reasons as you discover your preferences.

How to Make a Thrift Find Criteria List

Spend some time thinking about what you like and your basic style, then use these ideas to get started:

- **What styles are you drawn to?** Browse magazines and Pinterest, and make folders or boards to collect images you like. Keep at it until you begin to see a pattern within your collections. See [The Creative Design Template](#) if you need help finding your style.
- **What immediately catches your eye when you shop?** Pay attention to the lines, textures, edges, shapes, sizes, and materials you're attracted to.
- **What will you do with your finds?** Do you prefer repurposed or upcycled projects? Don't worry about paint, finishes, embellishments, or fixtures. You can handle all of that later.

Once you have an idea of what you like, make a list of at least three characteristics to look for when you shop.



Want to see my list?

- Has a unique shape or size
- Can easily be transformed with paint
- Has the ability to be repurposed
- Is made from metal

Every piece I buy doesn't fit all of the criteria, but it does fit at least one, and often two or three.

The more points you have on your list, the broader your possibilities will be when you shop.

Narrow it down when you feel overwhelmed; add more characteristics as your expertise grows.

The days of wandering through piles of "junk" are gone when you have a criteria list, and now you'll be bringing home the bargains and making fabulous projects every time!

ACTION STEPS

1. Head on over to Pinterest and create a private board to hold your inspiration collection. Don't worry about the details - this will be a secret board.
2. Now have a pinning party! You can either use your natural feed or use the search bar for specific types of pins. If you're interested in using thrift finds for home decor projects, for example, type "home decor" in the bar. You can then click on any of the suggestion tabs to narrow the search. When something appeals to you visually, just pin it! Don't fret over it, trying to figure out **WHY** you like it, just pin it to that secret board.
3. Keep at it until you have 200-300 pins. Then, look through your board. Do you see a theme? Are there similarities in many of the pins? Don't worry if you have a few "oddballs" thrown in there - you probably will. Just overlook those. You're looking at the majority.
4. Take a trip to a thrift store! Browse around and see what catches your eye **right away**. Again, look for a theme. Is there a particular material you prefer? A common shape you like? What about size? Texture?
5. Using your secret board and thrift store experience, make a list of at least 3 things that attract you to a piece. That's it! You now have your criteria list.

GET THE EBOOK

Thank you for reading **How to Thrift Shop Like a PRO**, Chapter 1. I hope you've been inspired to build your own criteria list for your future thrift shopping trips and that you're excited to hit the stores and find great pieces that will fit your list.

Building a criteria list is just the beginning of the tried-and-true hacks in **How to Thrift Shop Like a PRO**. In the full book, you'll also learn :

1. Why you need a shopping list and three action plan steps to quickly create one
2. How to get a great deal on your most thrilling finds.
3. How to train your mind to see pieces in a fresh way, with 6 prompting questions to ask yourself to inspire your repurposing projects
4. Why you sometimes need to simply browse
5. Four ways to avoid thrift shopping regret
6. The amazing potential in pieces with unique shapes or sizes
7. How to pair or group unrelated pieces to create unexpected projects
8. Tips for buying good quality furniture pieces when you thrift shop
9. The number one supply you need for incredible trash-to-treasure projects

[Click here](#) to get the 43-page ebook now.

