

# Top tips when op shop shopping



**Prices and interest rates are all on the rise, so there's never been a better time to cut costs where you can. And one of the best ways is to visit your local op shops. It's good for charity, good for the environment and great for your bank balance!**

From saving pennies, contributing to the greater good and dressing to impress, here are some tips and tricks to navigate your local op shop.

## **Cull**

To make space for new purchases, you **MUST** do a wardrobe cull before you head to the op shops - and be ruthless. If it doesn't spark joy, or if you haven't worn it in a year, get rid of it and let it spark joy for someone else. Double the good vibes by donating it to the store you plan on going op shopping at.

## **Shop your wardrobe**

After you've done your wardrobe cull, go through what's left and create outfits from the clothes and accessories you already own. Head to the op shops to "fill in the gaps" and get those key pieces you don't have.

Avoid the trap of 'winging it' and go in with a clear budget and goal/outfit/item in mind and you'll find yourself saving time and money.

## **Shop mid-week**

People typically donate clothes on the weekend and volunteers usually

don't get a chance to sort through these until Monday or Tuesday. Shopping mid-week can give you a head start on bargains while also allowing you to avoid the crowds.

## **Dress appropriately**

Wear clothes that are easy to get in and out of because op shopping requires a lot of trying on. Never trust op shop sizes. Try before you buy! Also, when embracing the spirit of sustainability by buying second-hand, carry your own bags and a bottle of water. Op shopping is thirsty work!

## **Don't be restricted by gender or age**

If you see something you like and you think it might fit you, don't be put off by the label, try it on! What's the worst that could happen?

Furthermore, don't be bound to your sex when shopping. Whether you're a lady searching for a chic men's waistcoat or a man looking for a funky female scarf for winter, spread your wings across the terrific tapestry that is an op shop.

## **Op shops are more than clothes**

Checking the furniture section of an op shop is an extremely worthwhile endeavour, especially before looking at buying something new. Couches, tables, chairs - these sorts of items will generally still be in good condition and are rarely anywhere close to their retail value. Take a tape measure and the dimensions of your rooms at home just in case you find hidden treasures.

Also don't forget that some items may just need a lick of paint or a bit of TLC to turn them into something unique. Just be realistic about the amount of time and effort you're willing to put into the project to decide whether it's worth it.

## **See it, love it? Buy it!**

First, of course, employ the "do you need it" test and should the item pass, make it yours. You leave it for another day, someone equally as frugal as you will no doubt swoop in before your return, leaving you wondering what could've been.

They're a fun and easy way to stop you from spending an arm and a leg on brand-name clothes and homewares. **And don't forget a regular visit - people donate their belongings to op shops every single day, which means new items 24/7!**

