

Buying Used. Sometimes the best way to find the perfect fit

Buying used furniture can sometimes be the way to find that unique, antique or affordable piece to complete your home. When you buy used, you not only save much of the original retail cost, you can often avoid paying the sales tax. Most of the time the seller just wants to dispose of his or her old furniture to make room for their new furniture or they are moving to a new city or country and cannot take it with them, either way, you will often save thousands of dollars furnishing your condo, apartment, townhouse or house.

People often shy away from the word "used" because it sounds cheap or makes the item sound like there may be something wrong with it. Not true. Many of the sofas, love seats, dining sets, bedrooms furniture and office furniture are in near perfect condition and cost a fraction of the retail price. If there is some damage or wear and tear on the item, you can use that to your advantage when making your offer to the seller. Wood can easily be refinished and ripped cushions can be replaced or recovered.

Okay, if you are still reading you must now be wondering where some of the best places to find these near perfect treasures are. If you want to buy locally, check your community papers and bulletin boards. Your area also likely has some sort of classified ad paper that has many different types of items including furniture, electronics and other household items; even a new pick-up truck to haul your new sofa! Perhaps the most popular place, and the one with the best selection and bargains is eBay. Ebay offers a huge selection of used and new items.

If you don't believe you can furnish your whole house at a mere fraction of what you would pay in the store, just visit ebay now and search for your desired piece of furniture, electronics or household item.

Buying used can be a great way to shop, but you should be prepared. Here are some tips to help you find that perfect addition to your home:

- Enter the word "furniture" or "sofa" in a search engine such as Google or Yahoo. The more specific the search words such as "used furniture" the more likely you are to find what it is you are looking for.
- Information about shipping costs, taxes, delivery, guarantees and returns should be listed on the site. Be sure to read over these details so you know the web site operator's policies.
- Items on websites and in papers are often listed by category. Use this to narrow down your search.
- When you find the item you are interested in check out any pictures that the seller has provided. If they have not provided any, contact the seller and ask them to email you some pictures. This will save you a trip to the seller's house and avoid wasting your time if the item is not what you want or has visible damage.
- If you have found an item you want and are concerned that someone else may buy it before you be sure to let the seller know you are interested and try and get to their home or business to view it as soon as possible.
- It is also important to make sure the item will fit in your home. Measure the space you are putting it in and take those measurements with you when you go to view the item.

We hope this information will make your first treasure hunt a success. Good luck and good savings!