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OUTSIDE GUIDE | SALVAGE STORES

DIY? Think outside the (big) boxes

By Claire Martin
The Denver Post

POSTED: 08/28/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT
UPDATED: 08/28/2010 01:09:05 AM MDT

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Used bathroom sinks are available in the \$30-\$35 range at The Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Evergreen. (Cyrus McCrimmon, The Denver Post)

One way to keep costs down during a home-improvement project: Skip the big-box stores and shop at the warehouses packed with salvaged or donated supplies that mirror the chain stores' inventory, but at sharply discounted prices.

Whatever do-it-yourself tools you may need are here. There are nails, screws, electrical-outlet covers, radiators, door and window screens, laundry tubs and double sinks, bath tubs, gas-log fireplaces, laminate flooring, carpeting and carpet padding.

Most of the inventory is donated by building contractors, often from building projects that the recession closed down. Technically, this is salvage — not pricey antique architectural salvage, but new or slightly used merchandise.

The savings are staggering. Toilets from \$25, double- and triple- pane windows from \$75, paint for as little as \$1 per can.

The trade-off for customers is a slightly grungier shopping experience.



(CLICK TO ENLARGE)

POPULAR TALKERS EMAILED VOTED YEAR AGO

- Numerous Boulder eateries eye man who stiffed others over bill
- Teen arrested in attack on Greeley jogger
- Powder found in Wyoming traffic stop not drugs, but grandma's ashes
- Pair killed on motorcycle in Denver identified
- Maes loses support from GOP, grassroots; vows to stay in race
- Guv candidates appear at first debate
- Man and his daughter caught with loaded gun at DIA
- Moose injures child near Grand Lake

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MOST-COMMENTED, PAST HOUR

- Pols await word from Maes, Tancredo 19
- Clady, Moreno, Buckhalter playing for Broncos vs. Vikings 13
- NAACP watches for Tea Party racism, stirs controversy 7
- Three Arvada officers resign amid probe of alleged excessive force 7
- GOP, Tea Party leaders back away from Maes 6

RECENTLY RECOMMENDED

- Denver police warn CU, CSU students to behave (about 56 minutes ago)
- 'Moby Unread' launches Buntport's full season of relauches (about 3 hours ago)
- CSU's Carter: Bring on CU rivalry (about 4 hours ago)
- Kizsla: Want to win? Hire Bill McCartney (about 4 hours ago)
- Harsanyi: All smoke and mirrors (about 4 hours ago)

FRONT PAGE

- GOP, Tea Party leaders back away from Maes

But ask anyone who's found a mint-condition Chico's outfit or barely used fishing vest at a thrift store: The atmosphere runs a very distant second to the bargain.

With some people now scurrying to wrap up home projects before summer's end, see Page 6D for a list of some nearby home-improvement warehouses and their noteworthy bargains.

1. ReSource

Among the standouts at the Boulder warehouse: Drafting tables with metal doors (\$45), double utility sink (\$50), concrete roof tile (50 cents each), wood-burning stove insert (\$300), metal and porcelain kitchen sinks (\$15 to \$60).

The deals at the Fort Collins location included a white dry-erase board (\$20), a free-standing wood wine rack (\$25), a restaurant heating tub (\$25), wood fencing panels (\$25 per panel), new Velux skylights (\$100), pedestal sinks (\$50 to \$150), and wooden shutters (\$5 to \$10 each).

6400 Arapahoe Road, Boulder, 303-419-5418; 1501 N. College Ave., Fort Collins, 970-498-9663

2. Extras

This

vast north Denver warehouse is a little hard to find. Just off Furniture Row, Extras is behind a restaurant-supply store that's worth a trip on its own. The parking is shared with large tractor-trailer trucks. Inside, customers are left to themselves to wander among aisles bristling with raw lumber and molding, and stacked high with everything from ladderback chairs to swamp coolers. The best deals on a recent visit: 6-inch and 7-inch black walnut flooring (\$7 per square foot); fluted 12-foot-tall columns (\$125); bags of play sand (\$2 each); crystal chandeliers (\$100 and up); 2-by-6-inch-by-8-foot and 2-by-8-inch-by-18-foot redwood boards (\$1 per foot); unfinished knotty-pine cabinets (\$75); and swamp coolers (\$50 and up). 400 W. 53rd Place, 303-296-8090



A chandelier hangs over a Victorian couch, just two items for sale at the Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity salvage store in Evergreen. (Cyrus McCrimmon, The Denver Post)

3. Bud's Warehouse

One of the first discount home-improvement stores in Denver, Bud's also is a place to teach job skills to people who were once homeless or imprisoned. The staff is knowledgeable and helpful in navigating the dim interior of a relatively small warehouse that's in the shadow of Interstate 70. Recent bargains included upscale new cabinets in cherry, oak, maple, birch (\$150); used cabinets (\$25 and up); cove base molding (25 cents per linear foot). 4455 E. 46th Ave.; 303-296-3990

4. Metro Denver ReStore Home Improvement Outlet

Colorado has 17 ReStores altogether, which stock everything from doors to pipes. Interested in upmarket furniture? Visit the ReStores in such well-heeled locations as Carbondale and Evergreen.

From the outside, the Denver ReStore building looks small. But inside, it's dense, especially the aisles where doors line up like tall, narrow books. The furniture (\$25 and up) includes dining-room sets, sofas, mirrors, bookshelves, easy chairs that are clean and attractive, a few notches above the standard fare at Goodwill or ARC; toilets (\$25 and up); countertops and cabinets (\$20 and up); pre-mixed cans of paint and spray paint (\$1 and up); a gorgeous set of wide white shutters (\$60); and elegant hanging lights (\$15 and up); gardening supplies (\$1 and up); and wrought-iron security doors with screens and glass (\$75 and up). 70 Rio Grande Blvd. (just west of Santa Fe Drive at West Ellsworth Avenue); 303-722-5863 or 5864

5. Metro Denver ReStore Home Improvement Outlet

This modest, low-slung building is crowded but orderly, with furniture arranged in living-room groupings, and military rows of toilets. Notable offerings included a commercial hot-air hand-drying machine (unpriced); a fancy low-flow European-style toilet (\$150); a variety of molding (15 to 75 cents per foot); bathroom vanity cabinets (\$5 and up); wooden double bed headboard and footboard (\$24 and up); a barnyard-style exterior door with diamond pane window (\$25); a maroon security door with glass lever window and screen (\$75); carpet squares (\$1.25 each); Pepsi machine (\$75); and a hydraulic jack (\$10). 10625 W. I-70 Frontage Road, Wheat Ridge; 303-421-5300

6. Blue Spruce Habitat ReStore

- Ritter's move toward opting out of anesthesia rule upsets anesthesiologists
- White House considers package of business tax breaks to spur hiring
- Colorado toddler's injury by moose called "freak incident"

FRONT PAGE: LOCAL NEWS

- GOP, Tea Party leaders back away from Maes
- Ritter's move toward opting out of anesthesia rule upsets anesthesiologists
- Colorado toddler's injury by moose called "freak incident"
- Three Arvada officers resign amid probe of alleged excessive force

FRONT PAGE: BUSINESS NEWS

- Trio of weekend ski sales offer cool savings
- Manufacturing boosts economy, stocks
- Denver law firm, K.C. group merge
- Car sales tank as deals scarce, public wary

Post Poll - Holiday Travel

According to AAA, more drivers will travel farther this Labor Day weekend than they did last year. How far do you plan to travel this weekend? Read a related story.

I have no substantial travel plans.
Less than 25 miles.
25 to 50 miles.
50 to 100 miles.
More than 100 miles.
More than 500 miles.

MOST POPULAR: NEWS: PAST 3 DAYS

- Pair killed on motorcycle in Denver identified
- Semi hits buffalo on plains highway, driver dies in crash
- Focus on Family says anti-bullying efforts in schools push gay agenda
- Swift plant sued over treatment of Muslim workers
- Arvada pit bull put down after attacking neighbor's dog
- Eight CU dental patients given potentially lethal dosages of drug
- Denver Zoo tiger quadruplets make their debut
- Moose attacks, injures child near Grand Lake

Wow! This is a gold mine for offbeat finds, including an enormous antique free-standing iron wood stove (\$1,000); sofas suitable for a Parade of Homes living room (\$50 and up); wingback chairs (\$50); ladderback chairs (\$30); an old Remington adding machine (\$25); and a huge dome divided in half that might be suitable for an observatory. Except for furniture and inventory susceptible to rain and snow, most of the stock is arranged outside like a huge yard sale. 1232 Bergen Parkway, Bergen Park/Evergreen; 303-674-1127

Before you go:

Make a list of what you need, including any materials you want to avoid, to save time and keep on task at the store.

Write down the measurements of the window, door, cabinets or other items you want. Bring a measuring tape along with the notes.

Double- and triple-check each piece. Look closely for cracks, warping, water damage or other problems. If you find damage, is it something you can repair? Or live with?

Buying salvaged tile? Examine the pieces for bits of attached mortar or concrete, which can be difficult to remove, and result in an uneven surface.



Gene Kennedy of Mobile, Ala., browses the Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity salvage store in Evergreen. (Cyrus McCrimmon, The Denver Post)

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- 8th most-clicked article among style articles today

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- Numerous Boulder eateries eye man who stiffed others over bill

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- Go-Topless event bares inequalities
- Mixing it up in the gym and the ring
- Mad about mushrooms: A foray for fungi
- Food that's fresh, healthy and fast
- Lost amid the maps
- 2 cactus gardens thrive with — and without — tending
- Peaches on pork chops a savory, seasonal meal
- DIY? Think outside the (big) boxes
- Cameron: All the words a dog needs to know
- RSVP: 21 to bow at 2011 Fine Arts Foundation Debutante Ball

MOST POPULAR: BUSINESS: PAST 3 DAYS

- Touch-screen Nano part of Apple's new iPod lineup
- Government credits help solar arrays go up in poor Colorado areas
- Telemarketer to pay \$2.3 million over auto-warranty calls
- Sprint hiring up to 100 in Englewood today
- 3 restaurants close after chain's CEO arrested
- Some airlines offering waivers to travelers in Earl's path
- Trio of weekend ski sales offer cool savings
- SmartGridCity takes heat at PUC hearing
- Xcel socks Denver with nation's 2nd-highest electric-rate increase
- Silk feeling a chill over its shelf space at Whole Foods

POPULAR: ENTERTAINMENT: PAST 3 DAYS

- As Fox news anchor, Ron Zappolo still knows the score
- Denver's next shared book: 'The Help'
- Three 'P.O.V.' films explore how adoptees question their race, identity
- Debbie Matthews has bottomless respect for her strip club staff
- Husted: A couple of show-slopping performances
- AP Exclusive: Secret testimony reveals stars' loss
- Michael Douglas' ex wants half of new-movie earnings
- Clooney's latest goes for broody over brawny
- Bristol Palin, 'Brady Bunch' mom tapped for 'Dancing with the Stars'
- Newly identified Rembrandt loaned to Denver Art Museum

BUSINESS: RECENT COMMENTS

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A lot of people are using the health care law wrongly as blame for insurance costs. My deductible ..
- Comment on Companies add 67K workers, but jobless rate rises (1 hour ago)