

The Top 5 Thrift Stores in the Twin Cities (and the Surrounding Areas)

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THRIFTING HAS BECOME increasingly popular over the past few years. Whether you are a broke college student trying to keep up with the ever-changing trends or someone with an expanding concern about the sustainability of clothing, there is a thrift store for you. Trying to weed out the good from the bad can be a real pain, especially given there are over a dozen Goodwills in the Twin Cities alone. To save you some time, I have compiled a list of the top five thrift stores in the Twin Cities (and surrounding areas), so you know where to find some truly unique pieces.

#5: Hidden Treasures (St. Anthony)

Hidden Treasures lives up to its name. It may not be the fanciest thrift store on this list, but I'm not looking at the fanciness level. Located on the outskirts of Minneapolis in the suburb of Saint Anthony, this thrift shop is a treasure trove of delightful items. Clothing, furniture, and board games are just a few things you can find. The downside to this shop is that things go fast. It's a favorite of many thrifters in the area, and if you aren't fast, you might miss a fantastic find. On the other hand, they frequently have 90% off sales where you might get a better deal if you wait. Hidden Treasures is a worthy trip for any thrifter looking to add a new stop to their thrifting itinerary.

#4: Unique (New Hope)

Another spot in a Minneapolis suburb, Unique is truly a relic of the thrifting past. Being one of the largest thrift stores on this list, the possibilities of what you can find are endless. On top of having furniture, trinkets, and a clothing section that takes up 3/4ths of the building, their book section is a diamond in the rough. It's generally in a state of disarray, but if you can get past that, there is a chance you will find something worth the struggle for only a dollar or two. Unique was previously a chain of non-profit shops but recently merged with for-profit thrift superstore Savers. Because of this union, prices have gone up drastically. Price increases are no stranger to thrifters over the past few years, but it's hard not to notice when prices double. There is also a Unique in Burnsville, but that location would not have a chance of making it on any list of "top thrift stores." Overall, Unique is a thrift store for the masses, and I would be surprised if anyone left there without finding something. (You can also use your Savers rewards here!)

#3: Buffalo Exchange (Minneapolis)

The best way I could describe Buffalo Exchange would be an edgy Plato's Closet. They don't have furniture or trinkets like the other thrift stores on this list, but the sheer eccentricity of it makes up for that. From goth, to vintage, to everything in between, Buffalo Exchange has it all. They are also a great place to sell unwanted clothing. They will give you more than a few bucks for your stuff, unlike the other previously mentioned store. The one downside to Buffalo Ex-

change is that they mix in new items with used items. It can be a bit of a bummer for those who do not want to contribute to fast fashion. The tags are clearly marked as new or used, not to mention the new items are double the price of the used ones. In addition, it's a wonderful place to find a Halloween costume or an outfit for a themed party.

#2: Goodwill (Saint Paul, Midway)

I went back and forth about whether or not the Goodwill on the Midway in Saint Paul should be number one or two on this list. I ultimately went with second place due to it being a single location. Don't get me wrong, it is still one of the best Goodwill locations in Minnesota, let alone the Twin Cities, but Goodwill, as a whole, doesn't always have the best selection. This location is noteworthy because it has two floors of thrifting goodness. The lower level features furniture, books, and decor; the upper level is dedicated to clothing, shoes, and accessories. Another highlight is that it's within walking distance from campus! The only downsides I can think of when it comes to the Midway Goodwill are that it can get busy sometimes, and the furniture and decor section leaves a lot to be desired.

#1: Savers (Columbia Heights, Woodbury, West Saint Paul)

Savers is the *crème de la crème* of thrift stores, an oasis, and my personal happy place. I placed them in the number one spot because every location is outstanding. The top-tier sites are Columbia Heights, Woodbury, and West Saint Paul. The newest location is West Saint Paul, and even though it has only been open for a few months, it's already turned out some fantastic finds. My only gripe with Savers is that it's flooded with Depop girlies with carts filled to the brim with five-dollar t-shirts they plan on reselling for fifty. Resellers are a problem I run into at most thrift stores. It seems especially bad at Savers, but maybe it's just personal. What has reeled me in the most regarding Savers is their rewards system and donation coupons. Every donation you make, no matter how small, you get a 20% off coupon. You also get a 20% off coupon for every hundred dollars you spend. There are plenty of other reasons to love Savers, but to save myself from sounding like an infomercial, I'll leave it at that.

Well, there you have it, my choices for "The Top 5 Best Thrift Stores in the Twin Cities." Some honorable mentions include Flying Pig Thrift, Goodwill Outlets, and St. Vincent de Paul. I hope this list brings you good thrifting fortunes. Thrift on thrifters!



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