

7 Ways Second-Hand Furniture is Better Than Buying New

Are you in the market for some new furniture? If so, you may be considering buying new pieces. After all, it's brand new and in perfect condition - what could be better than that?

As it turns out, there are a lot of things that make buying second-hand furniture a better option. Here are eight reasons why second-hand furniture is often better than buying new:

1.) Unmatched quality

You know all of those sayings that boomers are constantly throwing around?

"They don't make 'em like they used to anymore," for example. When it comes to furniture, that saying honestly holds true. A majority of today's furniture is not manufactured to the same standards as furniture 100 years ago or even 30 years ago.

Most of the furniture accessible to middle-class and working-class families today [isn't built to last and is intended to break quickly](#). Want something without particle board? Looking for some solid wood furniture or something that isn't flimsy? You'll have to pay up - significantly.

When you buy secondhand furniture, you'll be able to shop for pieces that were crafted with more care and better-quality materials than what you'll find in many stores with new furniture for sale. And for the price, you can get much better quality items when you shop secondhand.

2.) Find unique pieces

Do you like your furniture to be one-of-a-kind? If so, buying secondhand is the way to go.

In today's world of big-box stores and fast fashion, it can be tough to find furniture that truly stands out. But when you shop at thrift furniture, garage sales, high-end furniture consignment, furniture flips, and antique stores, you'll be able to find pieces that are truly unique.

When shopping for secondhand furniture in person, you never know what era or style you might stumble upon. From mid-century modern to 50's retro or shabby chic, the options are endless.

And with the trend of "upcycling," it's not uncommon to find furniture that has been given a new lease on life through repainting or refinishing. It's almost like a treasure hunt, searching through thrift stores and yard sales to find that perfect vintage piece to add character to your home.

With a little creativity and elbow grease, you may just discover your own hidden gem among secondhand furniture collections. The next time you're on the hunt for furniture, why not give secondhand a chance? Who knows what unique treasures you might find?

3.) More sustainable

New furniture comes with a lot of materials waste, textile waste, and shipping emissions. Then, there's the fact that so much new furniture is cheaply made and will be disposed of in a few years tops.

In 2018, over [12 million tons of furniture waste](#) were disposed of in the U.S. alone, 80% of which went to landfills. In the UK, [about 1/3 of people](#) report that they opt to throw still-useable furniture away instead of selling it or giving it away.

Buying used furniture almost entirely eliminates the environmental harm associated with your purchase. That's huge! If all of us committed to buying even half of our furniture secondhand, it would make a huge dent in the demand for

new furniture - and by extension, the waste generated by the furniture industry. We're actually on track to accomplish this since [thriftling has become less socially stigmatized](#), and younger generations are interested in sustainable living.

4.) Secondhand furniture has more character

New furniture is, well - new. A blank slate. And sometimes, that's not necessarily a good thing. While many people enjoy having something brand new, new furniture can feel impersonal and bland to others.

Secondhand furniture has been around for a while and has often been used by multiple people. As a result, it often has more character than new furniture. It tells a story, and that can make your home feel more personal and inviting. Not to mention the different eras secondhand furniture comes from and the personality and stylistic flair they can bring to your home.

5.) Upcycling opportunities

As we mentioned earlier, secondhand furniture is often more interesting and unique than new furniture. If you're creative, you can really have some fun with it by upcycling!

Upcycling is the process of taking something old and making it new again but better. For example, you might take an old dresser and give it a new paint job or add some decorative details to make it your own.

There are endless possibilities when it comes to upcycling secondhand furniture. You may even be able to find furniture that has already been upcycled in a style or theme that suits your taste.

On the other hand, if you're a DIY enthusiast, buying used furniture lets you put your own creative spin on a piece and make it one-of-a-kind. You can turn something mundane into a real statement piece with a little imagination.

6.) Saves money

Of course, one of the biggest reasons to buy secondhand furniture is that it's a lot cheaper than buying new.

When you buy new furniture, you're paying for the materials, the labor, the shipping, and the retailer's markup. But when you buy secondhand furniture, you're only paying for the piece itself - not all of those other added costs.

No matter the budget you're working with, you can find used furniture that outmatches what you'd get new for the same price. Got \$15 to spend at the thrift store? Good news - you can get a solid wood coffee table for that price in many secondhand shops around the country.

Looking for a unique statement piece to match your moody maximalist-themed living room? You can get a great deal on high-end vintage furniture by looking for a curator or shopping for antique furniture online. And it will likely cost you less than trying to buy a modern copycat piece in that same style.

7.) Higher resale value

One of the most eco-friendly ways to get rid of furniture is to resell it. Donating and giving away your old furniture are great options, too, but when somebody buys something, they are more likely to use it and get their money's worth from it.

A lot of what's donated to thrift stores actually [ends up in landfills anyway](#), so if you have time, consider reselling your used furniture when the time comes. You can often sell high-quality secondhand furniture close to what you bought it for.

The resale value of used solid wood, vintage, and retro furniture depreciates much slower than most new furniture. With many new pieces, you can count on the condition of each piece deteriorating more rapidly than a sturdy piece of vintage furniture would. Sometimes, new furniture doesn't even last long enough to sell when you're finished using it!

Wrapping up: Why is secondhand furniture better?

So many ways. Secondhand furniture is cheaper, more interesting, better for the environment, and often of better quality than new furniture.

If you're looking for a piece of furniture with personality, uniqueness, and a story to tell, you're got a lot of options to choose from, from your local thrift stores to browsing antique furniture online. You might be surprised at what you find!