OP SHOP GUIDE
Parramatta
Australians throw away 6 tonnes of clothes and textile waste every 10 minutes!
Buying pre-loved items not only saves you money, but benefits the environment and helps support the good work of local businesses and charities!

Each time you purchase something from a second hand store or op shop, more items are kept out of landfill. Buying second hand also extends the life of common household items such as clothing and furniture, which can be environmentally costly to make. It takes 2,700 litres of water to make one cotton T-shirt, that’s enough for one person to drink for 900 days!

So why not stop by your local op shop the next time you’re looking for your next pair of jeans or the perfect cupboard to suit your room... you might be pleasantly surprised at what you find!
Stepping into an op shop for the first time can be daunting! Where do you begin? How do you find the hidden treasures? Here are some simple tips to keep in mind to get the best out of your op shopping experiences.

**Be patient**
Give yourself time to properly search through the racks and forage the bookshelves and accessories. The more time and patience you have the more likely you are to find items that will surprise and delight you!

**Be prepared**
If you’re shopping for furniture, bring a tape measure and know the dimensions of the space you need to fill. When looking for clothes, have an idea of what you need and know what colours and styles work best on you.

**Think outside the season**
If you come across a great coat, but it’s the middle of summer, don’t dismiss it! Grab a bargain when you see it. Great buys won’t hang around for long.
Visit frequently
Some days you won’t find anything, but sometimes you will hit the jackpot. Just be patient and don’t get discouraged.

Always try it on
Most op shops do not allow returns so make sure everything fits and only buy the things you love.

Reimagine items
It’s not likely you’ll stumble across exactly what you are looking for, so think about sanding back and painting furniture, altering clothing or adding cushions/accessories.

Look for quality
It’s important to look for quality fabrics, classic cuts and well-made items. Buying items just because they are cheap isn’t worth it in the long-run if the quality isn’t there.

Shop the whole store
You never know what you’re going to find in an op shop, so it’s best not to limit yourself to a particular size or section of the store, but instead shop all over.

Donate
Remember to give back to your favourite op shops by donating quality clothes and furniture and keep the cycle going.

Have fun
The main thing is really to go in there and have fun. You never know what you’re going to find, but that’s part of the fun of it!
Looking for a new couch, cupboard or bike? Consider checking out your local second hand store before buying a new item. You can easily stumble across an amazing find at a bargain price! Here are some examples of great pieces from second hand stores around Parramatta.

Top left: Arm chair from Vinnies, North Parramatta.
Top right: Kitchen hutch from The Bower, Parramatta.

Stock in stores continually changes. Products shown may be no longer available.
Op shop finds

Clockwise from top: Chairs starting from $20 each from The Bower, Parramatta. Bikes starting from $40 from The Bower, Parramatta. Assorted plates starting from $1 each from Vinnies, North Parramatta.
You might be surprised at the quality items you can find in op shops. With a keen eye you can create different looks and find pieces that compliment your unique style, all for a fraction of the price of new items!

Stock in stores continually changes.  
**Left:** jacket (50% off), jumper, jeans and shoes from Vinnies, Carlingford.  
**Below:** jacket, shirts, shorts and dress from Salvos, North Parramatta
Op shop finds

Clockwise from left: Dress from Anglicare, Mt Druitt. Men’s shirt from Salvos, North Parramatta. Shirt and shoes from Lifeline, Epping and skirt from Vinnies, Epping. Jacket and dress from Vinnies, Carlingford.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBURB</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>STOCK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTH PARRAMATTA</td>
<td>Salvos 29 Castle St</td>
<td>02 9683 5599</td>
<td>Clothing, furniture, homewares, books, manchester and linen</td>
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<td>NORTH PARRAMATTA</td>
<td>Vinnies 583 Church St</td>
<td>02 9890 8424</td>
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<td>PARRAMATTA CBD</td>
<td>Anglicare 71 Macquarie St</td>
<td>02 9635 1783</td>
<td>Clothing, shoes</td>
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<td>PARRAMATTA CBD</td>
<td>Red Cross Shop 245 Church St</td>
<td>02 9689 1432</td>
<td>Clothing, shoes</td>
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<td>PARRAMATTA CBD</td>
<td>The Bower 1/4-14 Hunter St</td>
<td>02 9568 6280</td>
<td>Furniture, homewares, building materials, bikes, books</td>
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<td>CARLINGFORD</td>
<td>Vinnies 285 Pennant Hills Rd</td>
<td>02 9871 2649</td>
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<td>TOONGABBIE</td>
<td>Vinnies 1 Cornelia Rd</td>
<td>02 9769 1011</td>
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<td>WENWORTHVILLE</td>
<td>Vinnies 33 Dunmore St</td>
<td>02 9631 8853</td>
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<td>AUBURN</td>
<td>Salvos 103/123 Parramatta Rd</td>
<td>02 9648 0794</td>
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<td>GRANVILLE</td>
<td>Anawin Op Shop 11 Good St</td>
<td>0431 361 519</td>
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<td>EPPING</td>
<td>Vinnies 21 Oxford St</td>
<td>02 9868 5569</td>
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<td>EPPING</td>
<td>Lifeline 8 Oxford St</td>
<td>02 9869 7868</td>
<td>Clothing, books, homewares</td>
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<td>LIDCOMBE</td>
<td>Salvos 4/82 Parramatta Rd</td>
<td>02 9647 1006</td>
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Finding your local op shop
You can support your local charities not only by buying from them but also by donating your old items that are still in good condition. Just remember to:

- Only drop off your donation items during store business hours. Second hand stores are not dumping areas, so don’t leave your donations if the store is closed.
- Call ahead to make sure they accept the items you are donating. Not all stores accept the same things so it’s best to check before you donate.
- Only donate items that are still in good condition. If donations are in poor condition, it’s the charity that will have to pay to dispose of them.

Don’t forget about your council household clean-ups. If you have a lot of items that are in poor condition, book a clean-up with Parramatta City Council, just visit https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
You can also consider buying or selling second hand items online. This can also help reduce waste to landfill and can save new items from being made. Check out:

- Ebay: www.ebay.com.au
- Gumtree: www.gumtree.com.au
- Freecycle: www.freecycle.org

**Collection & Rehoming Service:** Do you have household items and furniture you no longer need or want? Call The Bower to enquire about their free Collection & Rehoming Service.

**The Bower Reuse & Repair Centre** is the place where second-hand comes first. They’re an environmental charity and cooperative committed to stopping usable items from going to landfill.

Shop 1, 10 Hunter St Parramatta, Mon – Sat: 10am to 4pm

(02) 9568 6280
For more information on City of Parramatta’s sustainable initiatives visit https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/ or call 1300 617 058