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Resale rescue

Recharge your budget with resale shops

by *Jamie Scharer*
The Arizona Republic

1 comment

The Dow is faltering and wallets are lighter, but our urge to shop isn't going away.

Boost your budget by cleaning out your clothes closet and selling your former favorites to resale shops. Some give you cash on the spot while others cut you a check after your items sell.

Don't expect your old gaucho pants and Doc Martens to go far, though. Most resale shops are pickier than you think and are critical of season, brand and style.

We asked some Valley stores to weigh in on the types of clothes and accessories they're looking to stock.

Most want you to bring in current, on-trend pieces - stuff you'd want to shop for, too. Items that are more than a few years old probably won't sell, unless they're classics or vintage. The more current the piece, the higher the price, says John Banks, manager of Buffalo Exchange in Phoenix.

Some stores recommended leaving cheap items from Target and Wal-Mart at home. And remember to clean, press and hang the clothes - first impressions are important here, too.

[More]

For designer deals: My Sister's Closet, Lincoln Village

This Valley-wide chain of 11 consignment stores is taking cute, current and clean clothes only, says owner Ann Siner. The Scottsdale location at Lincoln Village attracts women with disposable incomes, Siner says. It has an area devoted to high-end designers such as St. John and Chico's and two tall glass cases that house dozens of Louis Vuitton and Coach handbags.

Bring in fall and winter looks that are no more than 4 to 5 years old and retailed for at least \$50. Siner says that 7 For All Mankind and Antik denim will score you a sale, as will trendy heeled boots and ski wear. The store will pass on anything from Kohl's, Mervyns or the like.

Most clothing is priced at 70 percent of retail value, but Siner says that the most cash is to be made with designer handbags, which sell for \$500 on average. You take home 55 percent in store credit or 45 percent cash after your item sells.

Details: 6204 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. 480-443-4575, www.mysisterscloset.com ([LINK](#)).

For working women: My Sister's Closet, Town & Country

This consignment shop is a haven for professional woman, many of whom work downtown and shop during their lunch hour. Suits by Elie Tahari and Ralph Lauren are part of the mix.

Manager Lori Ray is saying no to summer dresses but is loving anything cashmere.

"We just can't keep cashmere in the store," Ray says.

She also is on the lookout for darker-colored twin sets, lightweight tropical-wool sweaters and anything by Tory Burch.

Details: 2033 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. 602-954-6080, www.mysisterscloset.com
<http://www.mysisterscloset.com>.