WHERE TO SHOP?

NONPROFITS

- Rebuilding Exchange
  1740 W. Webster Ave.
  Chicago, IL 60614
  773-252-2234

- Evanston ReBuilding Warehouse
  2101 Dempster St.
  Evanston, IL 60201
  847-866-9246

- Reuse Depot
  2711 Washington Blvd.
  Unit E
  Bellwood, IL 60104
  708-240-4910

- Habitat for Humanity ReStores
  600 N. Pulaski Rd.
  Chicago, IL
  773-348-0622

- Architectural Artifacts
  4325 N. Ravenswood Ave.
  Chicago, IL
  773-348-0622

- Jan’s Antiques
  2002 Dempster St.
  Evanston, IL 60202
  847-733-8320

- Salvage One
  1840 W. Hubbard St.
  Chicago, IL 60622
  312-733-0098

- Urban Remains
  1850 W. Grand Ave.
  Chicago, IL 60622
  312-492-6254

FOR PROFITS/OTHER

- Jan’s Antiques
  2002 Dempster St.
  Evanston, IL 60202
  847-733-8100

- Salvage One
  1840 W. Hubbard St.
  Chicago, IL 60622
  312-733-0098

- Architectural Artifacts
  4325 N. Ravenswood Ave.
  Chicago, IL
  773-348-0622

- Jan’s Antiques
  2002 Dempster St.
  Evanston, IL 60202
  847-733-8100

- Salvage One
  1840 W. Hubbard St.
  Chicago, IL 60622
  312-733-0098

- Urban Remains
  1850 W. Grand Ave.
  Chicago, IL 60622
  312-492-6254


WHY USE RECLAIMED MATERIALS FOR HOME REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS?

IT’S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

It is estimated that around 40% of landfills are filled with building construction and demolition debris and there is increasingly less space to store our discarded materials. In fact, the nearest landfill is now 100 miles outside of Chicago. Reusing historic and vintage materials diverts millions of tons of debris from the waste stream.

THE MATERIALS ARE EXCEPTIONAL

The items that are saved and sold at salvage warehouses and resale stores tend to be made of especially high quality materials. The old growth wood and stone found in Chicago’s older homes is often available only at a very high cost if it is mined today, and often times it is no longer even available because older trees have been cleared or are now protected, and many quarries have long ago been emptied and closed.

YOU CAN GET A BARGAIN!

Prices at salvage and reuse warehouses are often lower than anything close to the same quality purchased new, and prices are usually negotiable. If a homeowner is willing to buy objects that need a little more work, they can save even more money. Keep in mind that nonprofit warehouses tend to be more affordable than private shops because materials are generally donated to these organizations, not purchased.

YOU CAN FIND INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL ITEMS

Interior designers, architects and artists love to shop at building material reuse warehouses because they can design objects and rooms like no other. Create a unique space, mix and match, and make your home reflect your personality.

YOU CAN BRING BACK THE ORIGINAL APPEARANCE OF YOUR HOME

Items like vintage doors, windows, newel posts, and leaded glass are what define the character of an older home. Newer replications of these details often cannot capture the original patina and spirit of an item, and are also quite expensive to have custom made. You may not find what you want on the first visit to a resale shop, but the inventory is constantly changing, and there are numerous online auction sites as well that may have just the item you need to replace.

“FRIENDS OF” PROGRAM

A free program that will help the Chicago Greystone & Vintage Home Program keep you updated about programs, resources, and events relevant to vintage rehabbers and those who care about Chicago’s built heritage. Benefits include:

- Priority access to upcoming programs and workshops
- Invitations to exclusive special events including unique tours of West and South Side locations

CONTACT US

For more information about the Chicago Greystone & Vintage Home Program, and to join our “Friends of” program please call:

773-339-4111 or visit nhschicago.org

Follow us on twitter: @nhsgreystone.
*TYPES OF MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

KITCHEN AND BATH
- Cabinets
- Countertops
- Sinks and Faucets
- Working appliances
- Vanities
- Tubs
- Showers and enclosures
- Toilets (1.6 gallons or less)

WINDOWS
- Wood and vinyl
- Storm Windows

ELECTRICAL
- Light Fixtures
- Electrical Equipment
- Ceiling Fans

DOORS
- Interior or Exterior (solid wood doors, hollow core not recommended)
- Bi-fold doors French doors
- Storm & Sliding (complete with frame)
- Accessories (locks and hinges, handles, knobs etc.)

BUILDING MATERIALS
- Plywood
- Lumber

INSULATION
- Rigid Foam Insulation
- Fiberglass Batt (should be clean, dry & packed in bags)

UNOPENED CANS OF PAINT

FURNITURE
- Some stores have desks, chairs, bookshelves and other furniture

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN SHOPPING

IS THE ITEM COMPLETE AS-IS?

Most resale warehouses sell items as-is, so it is important to take stock of what comes with each item. While the sales staff can likely help you with many of your questions, they likely will not have the expertise that a specialized contractor would have. It is always a good idea to come prepared with items such as printed diagrams of plumbing fixtures, etc. to make sure all of the necessary components are included or easy to acquire online or at a hardware store. Some specific things to note:
- Does the flooring require underlayment?
- Are the plumbing fixtures complete, or are the missing components easy to find?
- Does the lighting fixture need to be rewired?
- Does the ceiling fans have hanger bracket, blade brackets, lighting fixtures, pull chain and/or a remote control?
- Do the cabinets have all doors/shelves/hardware? Hardware can easily be replaced, but it is not always easy to match a missing handle.
- Does the door lock have a key and do the doorknobs come with a post?

IS THE ITEM RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME?

- Doors and tubs have a left side and a right side based on how they were originally installed. A left-sided door won’t install properly into a frame that was built to hang a door that swings the other direction. Plumbing will determine which side a faucet must be installed on a bathtub.
- Faucets come with a 4” or an 8” spread, so be sure to measure what your sink will accept.
- Radiators may look similar, but there are differences between water and steam radiators.
- Ranges and clothes dryers can be either gas or electric, so be sure you know what you need.
- Refrigerators come in different depths and may be too deep for your countertops.

MEASURING

Older materials were often custom built to fit each home. Be sure to carefully measure items such as doors and windows, and keep in mind that many openings can be reframed or adjusted to fit your home if necessary. Many warehouses will have a tape measure you can borrow, but you may want to bring your own just in case.

DOORS

Solid wood doors can be cut and adjusted to fit the frame size if they are slightly larger than what is needed. Keep in mind that many doors have been planed down in areas to adjust to homes settling and shifting over time, so they may not be square.

LIGHTING

Lighting fixtures, new and old, can dramatically change a room based on brightness and scale. Also, pendant lighting can interfere with counter and door clearance, so measure from the ceiling to determine height.

FLOORING

Make sure there is enough reclaimed flooring to cover your entire room. It is possible to mix and match flooring for a more unique look, but be sure that the types of wood will expand and contract at a similar rate or you will end up with gaps or bulges. Also, flooring that has been sanded many times can become so thin that it is unable to be refinished in the future.

KITCHEN CABINETS

Cabinet heights and widths can vary for both upper and lower cabinets, so be sure you properly measure your existing kitchen, and match flooring for a more unique look, but be sure that the types of wood will expand and contract at a similar rate or you will end up with gaps or bulges. Also, flooring that has been sanded many times can become so thin that it is unable to be refinished in the future.

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MATERIALS TO AVOID

- No paint should be peeling or flaking on older materials due to lead paint concerns
- Materials exhibiting warping or mold due to water damage

- Open paint cans
- Asbestos-containing materials
- Materials with insect damage