

# Top 10 Tips for Op Shopping

*This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –  
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1. Shopping is shopping - make a list and stick to it.
2. Keep your eyes open for those unexpected finds - you know the 50c school shorts or the \$2 brand name jeans, new with tags.
3. Only choose to purchase quality items. Look for brand names you recognise as quality and make sure the items you purchase are of a good and usable quality.
4. Always try things on. It may well be a brand name but if it doesn't fit then it doesn't fit and will be a waste of money if you buy it.
5. Leave the kids at home. Again, shopping is shopping and the same rules apply to op shopping as to grocery shopping. Try to do your shopping alone so you're not distracted or tempted to buy things that are not on your list.
6. Know your op shop's sale days. Ask when they have their 50% off days, which day is \$2 a bag day etc. and plan your shopping around them.
7. Keep an open mind. You may have candlesticks on your list but not see any in the store. Is there a small wine glass or a pretty plate you can re-purpose as a candle holder? Look around you and find ways to re-purpose things to fit your requirements. Master this one technique and you'll never have to pay retail for anything ever again.
8. Visit your op shop regularly. New stock comes in every day and goes out just as fast. If you are looking for something in particular let the staff know and ask them to give you a call if it comes in.
9. Shop with cash. If you only take cash you can't go over your allocated shopping amount and you won't be tempted to just spend that extra \$2 because you simply don't have it.
10. Lastly, as your op shop supports you, you can support it. As you declutter, sort the items into piles to toss, recycle or donate. Take the donations to your op shop immediately, if you let them sit around you'll change your mind.

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and energy and still have fun!  
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