

Real Estate eNews

For Buyers and Sellers: Habitat Recycles Through Restores

You've probably heard of Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building and rehabilitating homes for low-income families. To date, the organization has built over 300,000 homes around the world, providing 1.5 million people with safe, decent and affordable housing.



Homes range in cost from \$800 in some developing countries to an average of \$60,000 in the United States. Selected families pay a down payment and monthly mortgage payments which are financed through affordable loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are then used to build still more Habitat homes.

Habitat homes are good news for many homeowners, and Habitat's new "Restores" are good news for many more homeowners, including new home buyers and homeowners who plan to list their home for sale.



What is a Habitat for Humanity Restore? These are outlet stores reselling home goods and furniture, and accepting donated goods for resale. The first Habitat Restore opened in Austin, Texas, in 1991. Currently, there are restores in every state in the U.S., plus other locations in Canada and abroad. Each store operates a little differently, depending on the community in which it is located.

One thing is the same, however. There are bargains to be had for homeowners. A trip to a Habitat Restore can uncover items ranging from home improvement goods, furniture, home accessories, building materials and appliances. Inventory may include plywood, paint, paint supplies, lighting, carpets, tile, doors, windows, appliances, furniture, kitchen and bath cabinets, sinks, toilets, cleaning supplies and more.

Some items are restock, discontinued or overstock goods donated by retail stores. One store was lucky enough to receive a surprise delivery of 15 whirlpool tubs donated by Kohler.

Other items are donated by homeowners when they have outgrown or outused a particular product, supply or appliance. In some cases, volunteers from some Restore outlets will actually assist homeowners in dismantling and removing furniture donations from the home, as well as deconstructing existing homes to harvest reusable goods.

All donated goods are sold to the general public at a fraction of the retail price to help fund the construction of Habitat homes within the community.



Habitat stores accept a variety of goods for donation. Each location has different regulations. Stores can be located on the Habitat for Humanity website at habitat.org. The store locator will provide links to stores in each state, and stores list the items they will accept for donation.