

Elbow Grease!

Furniture flipping:
10 things I can't
live without



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Flipping Furniture: The 10 Things I Can't Live Without

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Anyone can flip furniture, if you have the appropriate tools to get the job done. In flipping furniture, there are 10 items I can't live without. Check out the "Where to find furniture to flip on a budget" sidebar story for more info. If you're ready to get started, here is a list of the basics you will need to flip that first piece.



1 Cleaner

Most used pieces of furniture I have encountered had some form of dirt and grime. My go-to cleaner is simply a mixture of water and vinegar. Mix equal parts of vinegar and water in a spray bottle, and you're good to go! I used to use TSP, but vinegar and water work just as well and cost less.

2 Sandpaper

I use Gator sandpaper. My stash normally consists of 60, 80, 120, and 220 grit. I have tried other sandpapers, and they just do not hold up to the quality of Gator. Others rip and tear, but Gator holds its own.

3 Paintbrush

A good quality paintbrush makes a world of difference. I use Wooster Silver Tip. The Silver Tips leave very little paint strokes and clean up very well. You can also reuse them if you clean them correctly.

4 Wood Filler

Used furniture always has some dings or chips in the wood, so a good wood filler is a must. I use Elmer's Carpenter Natural Wood Filler if I am painting the piece. If I am staining, I try not to use too much filler because quite frankly, there is no filler that stains very well. Both products are easy to use by applying with a paint scraper.

5 Shop Towels

I use my shop towels on a daily basis. They're especially good at cleaning up spills! I have spilled paint and even stain on occasion and they absorb quickly and hold a lot of liquid. I also use them to clean pieces and to apply stains.



Where to Find Furniture to Flip on a Budget

Finding cheap furniture to flip is not hard. Here are a few budget-friendly places to look.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Goodwill

Facebook Marketplace

Curbside Finds

Craigslist

Freebies from Friends and

Family

Auctions



6 Respirator or Mask

This is very important when sanding or using oil-based topcoats. Always protect yourself. Older pieces can have lead paint and it's hard to determine if they do or not, so better safe than sorry. Wearing a mask will protect you.

7 A Good Sander

One of the most important of the 10 items when flipping furniture is a good sander. Any used piece will require some type of sanding. I use the DeWalt Orbital Sander. It fits nicely in my hand, with very little vibration. It runs smoothly but still has the power to get the job done. The dust bag collects dust, therefore very little mess. However, I do recommend sanding outside and wearing a mask. Once, I just moved my piece outside, right on the edge of the garage and thought it would be okay. Nope! Dust covered everything, and I mean everything! So be sure that you are outside away from anywhere you do not want dust to accumulate.



8 Tack Cloth

Tack cloth is very important and inexpensive. Even after you wipe down your piece to remove the sanding dust, you will still have residue left. Tack cloth is sticky and will remove all the left-over residue on your project. You can find this at any local home improvement store, your local hardware store or order it online.

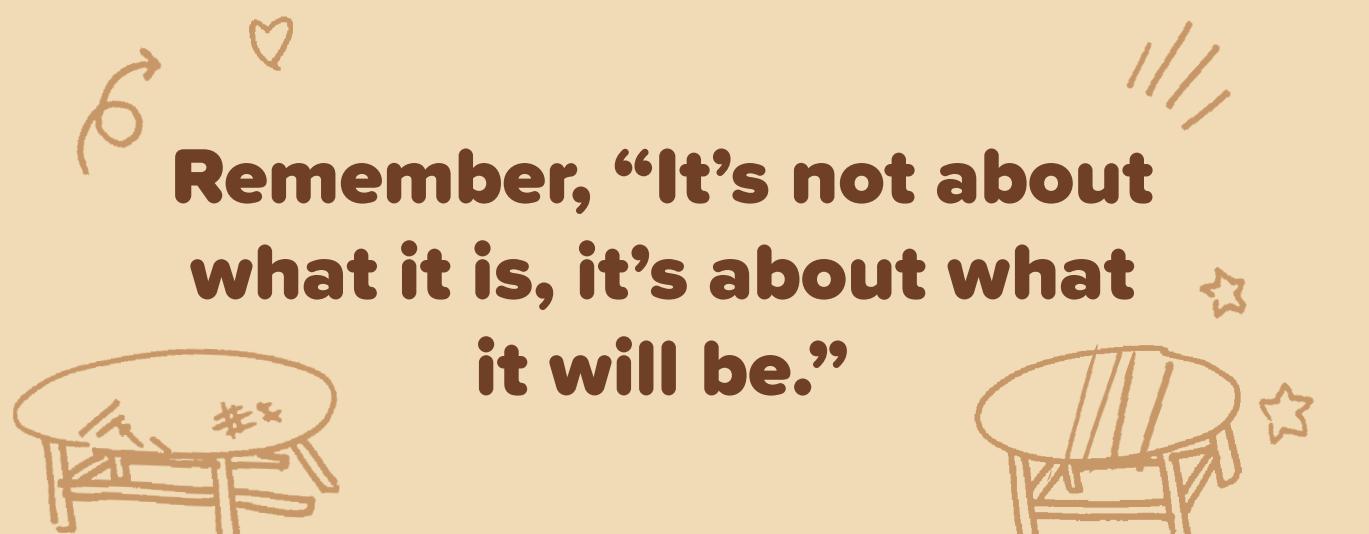


9 Plastic cups

These are important to use to pour your paint in before you begin a job, as they keep you from contaminating your entire paint container. They are also wider at the top which makes dipping your paintbrush in easier and quicker. I have saved the plastic containers that Chinese food comes in and they work very well!

10 Gloves

Gloves are important especially when staining. I do wear them when I paint as well, because I paint inside my shop which is in my home. If I do not use gloves, my hands would be covered in paint and so would everything else I touch! (Note: Make sure that if you are allergic to latex, you choose a glove that is latex-free!)



Remember, “It’s not about what it is, it’s about what it will be.”