

Hardware store

Hardware stores (in a number of countries, "shops"), sometimes known as **DIY stores**, sell **household hardware** for **home improvement** including: **fasteners**, **building materials**, hand **tools**, power tools, **keys**, **locks**, **hinges**, **chains**, **plumbing** supplies, electrical supplies, cleaning products, housewares, **tools**, **utensils**, paint, and lawn and garden products directly to consumers for use at home or for business. Many hardware stores have specialty departments unique to its region or its owner's interests. These departments include hunting and fishing supplies, plants and nursery products, marine and boating supplies, pet food and supplies, farm and ranch supplies including animal feed, swimming pool chemicals, **homebrewing** supplies and canning supplies.^{[1][2][3]} The five largest hardware retailers in the world are **The Home Depot**, **Lowe's** (both in the United States), **Kingfisher** of the United Kingdom, **Obi** of Germany, and **Leroy Merlin** of France^[*citation needed*].
