

Inexpensive used clothes are perfect for use as chore pants on the farm, or for jobs like painting, says Used Industrial Uniforms, Crystal, Mich.



Used Work Clothes Sold Cheap

At "Used Industrial Uniforms" in Crystal, Michigan, you can buy a pair of work pants for \$2, a set of coveralls for \$10, a jacket for \$15, or just about any other kind of work clothes or boots you might need.

Darrell and Laura Grover have been operating the business for eight years. They get their inventory from many different industry sources. "For two dollars, you're going to get a pair of pants with three holes in them - one for each leg, and one for the belly," Darrell jokes. "Seriously, they won't have any other holes, but sometimes a patch or a stain."

Inexpensive used clothes such as these are perfect for use as chore pants on the farm, or for jobs like painting. Even the new clothing and gloves that they carry is inexpensive compared to purchasing it elsewhere.

"We have a pretty big supply," says Grover, whose nickname is "the ragman." "We also have a lot of regular customers. I have routes where I deliver regular orders of pants, shirts, coveralls, jackets and gloves to all kinds of businesses, individuals, farmers and sawmills. I don't rent them - I sell them. Once they're gone, I don't want to see them again unless you're wearing them."

The company also does a brisk mail order business.

Grover says he's looking for someone else who is interested in starting a similar store in their area. He would be interested in wholesaling to them and providing guidance on marketing.

Extra large shirts, up to 7X, are available as are parts up to size 64. Gloves are available in cloth, canvas, leather, and rubber, in varying quality and quantities.

Orders can also be made by phone between the hours of 8:30 am and 10:00 am (EST), Monday through Friday.

Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a catalog or visit their website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Used Industrial Uniforms, 819 Mt. Hope Road, Crystal, Michigan 48818 (ph 989 235-6566; email: uniforms@cmsinter.net; website: www.usedindustrialuniforms.com).

Antique Trunk Restoration Business

If you're looking for a part-time business you can run from the farm, you might want to look into restoring antique trunks, says Stan LaBounty, Fargo, N. Dak., who has been restoring antique trunks part time for the past 10 years.

He restores about two trunks per month for customers in a five-state area. Customers generally deliver trunks to him. He advertises very little and gets business mainly by word of mouth. He says his business has prospered because there are a lot of antique shipping trunks around that are in bad shape, and he makes them look good again.

"People are amazed at the 'before and after' difference," says LaBounty, a retired farmer. "An antique trunk isn't worth anything if it's not good enough to be used. On the other hand, a refinished trunk can really brighten up a room. I like to do the ones that aren't usable because they give me more of a challenge. I'll work on a trunk no matter what condition it's in. I haven't seen one yet that I wasn't able to fix."

But don't worry that the restored trunk will look too new. "You can't take the antiqueness out of antique trunks. You can always tell where they've been," he says.

According to LaBounty, many trunks have to be completely rebuilt. "Often the trunk sat closed up in a basement or attic for years and was used to store old overshoes or clothes. Or the owner got the trunk after his great grandmother died and now he wants it fixed up."

"For example, a Minnesota man sent me a trunk that had sat for years in an old granary, where mice had chewed holes in it. It was in terrible shape. When he came to pick it up after I restored it, he couldn't believe it how good it looked. He put it in his bedroom and sent me photos of it. In fact, I get photos quite often after people take their trunks home."

He does the exterior first and the interior last. The outside wood is stripped of the old finish by hand. The wood is then sanded and sealed and painted, and a high quality finish is applied. Sometimes he also replaces the leather handles and any metal strips.

He relines the interior with whatever the customer wants, usually replacing the original wallpaper with cedar lining. Sometimes he lines the interior of the lid with tapestry fabric showing mountain scenes, gardens, wildlife, etc. If desired, the bottom and sides of the trunk can be lined with tapestry, too.

Cost depends on several things such as condition, style, size and how the cus-



Gun-shaped toy shoots perfect "smoke" rings made of fog

New Toy Shoots Fog-Rings

Kids love the new Zero Blaster, a gun-shaped toy that shoots "smoke" rings made of fog across the room.

A small reservoir at the base of the gun is filled with a special cherry-scented liquid (one small bottle will make up to 25,000 rings). Electricity from six double-A batteries zaps the liquid, turning it into fog. A pull of the trigger shoots a ring out of the specially shaped nozzle that travel up to 14 ft. away.

The Blaster sells for \$19.95 and comes in blue, red, purple and silver. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Zero Toys, 23B Bradford St., Concord, Mass. 01742 (ph 978 371-3378; website: www.zerotoys.com).

"Lids Off" Jar Opener

A touch of a button opens jars from baby food bottles to peanut butter with the new "Lids Off" powered jar opener from Black & Decker.

It has adjustable rubber grips at the bottom and top and it telescopes up as needed for different height bottles.

Sells for \$49.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, FARM SHOW Followup, Applicia Consumer Products, Inc., 5980 Miami Lakes, Miami Lakes, Fla. 33014 (ph 305 816-9334; website: www.blackanddecker.com).

Powered jar opener has adjustable rubber grips at top and bottom.



Got an antique trunk in sad shape? Stan LaBounty says he can restore it to like-new condition.

tommer wants the trunk relined. The cost is typically in the \$400 to \$500 range.

LaBounty also buys old trunks, restores them, and sells them.

He gets the parts he needs from Brettuns Village Trunk Shop, a nationwide trunk restoring company based in Maine. The company buys, sells, and refinishes trunks for antique dealers, interior decorators, etc., as well as regular folks. They supply parts for trunks and carry their own line of leather trunk handles and straps. And they can tell you everything you need to know about antique trunks, including antique trunk history, information on trunk makers, and even parts, tools, books, and help for do-it-yourselfers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stan LaBounty, Antique Trunk Restoration, 209 27th Ave. N., Fargo, N. Dak. 58102 (ph 701 237-5359; email: sjlab13@hotmail.com) or Brettuns Village Trunk Shop, Box 772, Auburn, Maine 04212 (ph 207 782-7863; website: www.brettunsvillage.com).

Reader Recipes

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water. Heat 4 cups of milk to boiling. Beat eggs. Add 2 tablespoons flour and 1 1/2 cups sugar to eggs. Beat. Stir into boiling milk and cook 1 min., stirring constantly. Pour over remaining sugar. Stir. Add jello mixture. Add cream, vanilla, and enough milk to fill a 1-gal. freezer. Don't fill more than 4 in. from the top.

Ada J. Miller

Potato Pancakes

1 cup instant potato flakes
1/2 cup flour
1 tsp salt
2 tsp baking powder
1 large egg
1 tsp onion powder
Milk

Grind or crush enough potato flakes to make 1 cup. Mix flakes with flour, salt, baking powder and enough milk to make it almost thin enough to pour thickly off a spoon. Add the egg and onion powder. Mix well until batter is fairly thick but will pour nicely. Put 2 tbsp or more of shortening in pan and fry gently on one side until done. Flip. Serve with ketchup, honey, jam, or syrup.

Jackie in Backwoods Home

Garlic Insect Spray For Plants

6 cloves garlic
1/2 onion
1 tbsp cayenne pepper
1 tbsp dishwashing liquid
1 quart water

Put first four ingredients in a blender, add some of the water, and blend until smooth. Pour mixture and the rest of the water into a jar and let steep for 24 hours. Strain, then pour liquid into a spray bottle. Treat plants. Keep extra spray in refrigerator for up to two weeks.

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