**BTS NDRC – LVA OBLIGATOIRE 2024**

**Inside the mad dash to buy your Walmart and Amazon returns.**

In strip mall parking lots around the United States, people start lining up at 7 a.m. to dig through other people’s rejects.

“I call it dumpster diving,” said Adriane Szackamer, a psychologist and mom of two living in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park.

Szackamer and her daughter are among the thousandsof bargain hunters flocking to America’s “bin stores” to buy returned merchandise from retailers like Kohl’s, Target, Walmart and Amazon for as low as $1.

In 2022, Americans returned $816 billion in merchandise, according to the National Retail Federation. But at the dozens of bin stores that have popped up around the country, that merchandise is now getting a second life as store owners buy truckloads of pallets of returned goods either directly from retailers or liquidation companies. Goods can range from plastic toys and face masks to iPads and power tools. Prices are typically highest on restock day, the day after a new truckload comes in, starting at around $10 per item and decreasing gradually throughout the week. […]

On Black Friday, The Washington Post visited BinCredible Deals in Marietta, Ga., Best Bargain Bin in Fox Lake, Ill., and UnBox in Brooklyn, N.Y., to dig into the latest fad in liquidation, a long-standing industry aimed at lessening the loss of getting rid of unwanted goods. […]

Stelian Gherman opened BinCredible Deals in 2021 after leaving a corporate career that made him miserable. Running a bin store is messy and challenging, but the independence makes it “the best job ever,” he said. The key is maintaining good relationships with suppliers.

Gherman says bin stores are only just starting to take off.

As more people have opened bin stores, Subhi Khalil,who has run Unbox since 2021, said competition for good merchandise has gotten too steep.

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