



Gift Store FAQs

Thank you for shopping in our Gift Store ... your purchases support Habitot's exhibits and programs!

Why does Habitot have a gift store?

Habitot's gift store raises 4% of our annual budget. By contrast, grants provide only 3%. Museums do not cover all their costs with membership and admissions alone. We work hard at fundraising to make up the difference. Anything we can earn from store purchases reduces the pressure on fundraising and our need to ask YOU for donations.

Why don't you block off the gift store so kids can't get in there?

Permanent fencing would make it impossible to bring in big exhibits like the Rocketship. Temporary fencing, which we have looked into, cannot be made safe and secure enough for little kids who might get caught or hurt if it's knocked over. Fencing of any kind would restrict the narrow entrance which would be a hazard in an emergency.

What if my kids take things when we're not looking?

Sooner or later, all parents will have to teach their children about respect for the property of others. If a child removes items from the store (most have stickers), we hope the parent will bring the child to return it to the store. While it's fine to try out the toys together in the store, we rely on parents and caregivers to put things back where they find them. Our staff is generally relaxed and understanding about how tempting the store is for young ones.

Aren't you just encouraging materialism in young children?

We live in a consumer culture, with things to buy almost everywhere, and parents are needed to help children decide when and where to buy things. Habitot's gift store can be one place you acknowledge your child's desires, and choose non-commercial, educational toys and other products of good quality. Please remember that your purchases support a nonprofit organization and its services, not a business. The items in our gift store can delight, teach, encourage creativity, and be good reminders of a fun and memorable day spent at Habitot.



"What I like about your gift store...

is that you've selected great items that are just right for my child's development. They tie into the exhibits, they're well-priced and they really hold my kids' interest!"

- Sue Mahon,
Habitot Member