

**HUNDREDS
OF TIPS**
to help you
step up your
game

QUEST YOUR BEST: ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO COLLECTING

COLLECTORS

QUEST

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At Collectors Quest, we make collecting more fun! Organize and share your collections. Buy and sell great stuff quickly and easily. Learn what's going on in the collecting world and meet other like-minded collectors. **Get the most out of collecting at CollectorsQuest.com.**

COLLECTORS

QUEST





GETTING STARTED

Photo: Beckie Hermans

The Collector's Quest: So It Begins

If you're reading this, there's a pretty good chance that you're a collector, whether you have an ever-growing display of something special which is slowly overtaking your kitchen and living room like some kind of all-consuming movie monster... or you've at least toyed with the idea of having more than five Pez dispensers.

There comes a time when those five turn into 500. It's the collecting bug, and it's bitten you. For some of us, it's just a nip: we scratch our insistent urges to collect something, and it never amounts to more than a casual hobby. For others, the bug climbs into us like *Glyptapanteles* wasp larvae

and takes control of our minds before bursting out through our wallets, branding us eternally as obsessive (or as we like to say, "dedicated") collectors.

No matter how severe your case is, you got started somewhere. Let's approach this as if you just stumbled blindly into this world and have nothing but an overwhelming compulsion to collect something. Anything.

Where do you go for some hot collectible action?
(Hint: We've got some ideas on the next page.)

YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Get Your Recon Freak On

Neighborhood sales are usually held on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays, be they in someone's garage, out on a yard or sidewalk, or being culled from someone's estate. Start watching the telephone poles and bulletin boards in your town for a few days before the weekend hits so you can start devising your plan of attack.

Craigslist is also a great resource for finding sales in places which might be off your usual path. Just avoid the 'M for W' section. There are things you can't unsee.

**At yard sales,
you're poised to
go home with
something nice.**

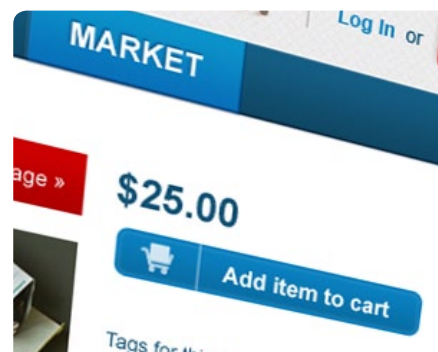
Amateurs!

It generally stands to reason that people selling stuff about 10 feet from where their dog uses the bathroom aren't going to be charging premium prices for their stuff. Moreso than at other locales, these are the people who will usually cut you a pretty good deal. The motivation to hold a yard sale generally falls into some combination of "I have too much stuff" and "I want to make a few bucks." Regardless, you're probably poised to go home with something nice.

Unpillaged Booty

Because these are casual sales with a vast amount of space, sellers will display everything from their old shoes to their kitchen sink.

It doesn't cost anything to put that mouse-nibbled *National Geographic* from 1986 on the lawn, so you may have to dig for the real good stuff—but more than anywhere else, this is where you'll find buried treasure, unspoiled by plunderers before you.



ONLINE SHOPPING

No Pressure

There's nothing quite like hitting the "Add to Cart" button from the comfort of your own home; there are no negotiations, no typing weird addresses into the GPS, no bad weather, and no sore feet. Try hitting a flea market in your underpants. And then try to make bail.

Make Me One with Everything

Of course, the number one benefit of shopping online is the fact that your selection of items is nearly infinite. If it exists, someone out there has it, and you'll eventually be able to buy it, after a bit of sleuthing, patience, and some luck. You'll never be able to hit that boot sale across the pond, but your Internet connection can...



Photo: Beckie Hermans

FLEA MARKETS

Classic Concentration

The best thing about flea markets is that they're all-in-one banquets of collecting. If one table doesn't have anything that fits your collection, the next table is just a few footsteps away. It's like trick-or-treating in an apartment complex instead of a rural town. Sure, the competition for awesome stuff is a bit steeper, but the rewards are worth it. Bring sunscreen.

The Good Stuff

Because flea market vendors pay for space and need to lug stuff around, they'll usually only bring the best of what they've got. Why shove a box of broken action figures into the back seat when you can use that space for some vintage die-cast trucks that are way more likely to sell?

Let's Make a Deal

More than anywhere else, flea market sellers have the most motivation to give you a good price—what they cannot sell has to be packed up and put back into their inventory. Don't be afraid to make an offer if something feels too expensive, and check out our section on negotiating for some sneaky helpful tips.

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ANTIQUES MALLS

Haggle-Free Environment

The best thing about antiques malls (aside from being climate controlled and indoors) is that many things will have prices on them, which you won't always see at other venues. As all of the items in these malls are owned by different people, and since many of their owners are not going to be there while you're poking around, you can either pay the asking price or not... Without the pressures (or pleasures) of haggling. You can also avoid the awkward pleasantries trying not to say "you can't really expect me to pay that much" as you walk away.

Even Better Stuff

As we move up the scale of antiques-mall formality, the items you'll find get nicer and nicer. Here, displays tend to be relatively organized, and there's likely to be a sense of order throughout. This may help to soothe any impatient or easily overwhelmed companions you might have with you who do not share your enthusiasm for the hunt. Of course, you'll also run into the occasional mess to rummage through, but that's half the fun.

Pass the Inspection

With no one around to prod you with their eyes or surreptitiously measure your interest in their stuff, you can usually conduct a full inspection of the item you want to buy—something which isn't always possible to do with a clear head when you're getting the death-stare from Grandma Hortence as you reach for her prized teacups.

AUCTIONS

Expect the Expected
You always know what to expect with auctions: a strictly regimented and orderly process, you know what will be going up for bid, you know your budget, and you know the bidding process. No one will be able to physically shove you away from that Victorian chair you're eyeing... though they might paddle you away. This time, it's your budget, and possibly your bidding strategy, but not your ability to get there first. Slowpokes, rejoice!

Only the Best

A reputable auction house isn't going to waste your time with moldy basement trash. The items you bid on will have been researched and inspected meticulously for flaws, removing all risk from the equation. This is where you're going to find the best of the best within your own collecting world. These items will also usually come with a detailed history, saving you the time and effort of tracing their lineage later on.

CONVENTIONS

It's a Limited Edition

Any convention worth its admission fee will offer up some special, highly collectible items which are available only to convention attendees. Whether it's a commemorative coffee mug or a comic book with a unique cover, these are the things that far-flung collectors dream about (and pay premium prices for).

The Geek Shall Inherit...

Convention sellers are experts on what they have for sale. Because of this, they'll bring the most collectible of their collectibles...

for a price. They also know that the people who geek out about this stuff are also pretty smart. In this vein, they'll know when to give you a great deal if something is more common, and might be compelled to slash their prices for someone who's totally into the thing *they're* into. Call it collector camaraderie.

Convention sellers are experts on what they have for sale.

One of Us!

When you're at a con, you'll be surrounded with a ton of dealers and buyers who are all about the same things you are. Take a few moments to grab some business cards and shake a few hands (without being creepy about it...). You might make friends with someone who can help you out down the road.



Photo: Daniel Cull

NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUES

How Much for That Dog Lamp in the Window?

Negotiation is a delicate battle of wills, dollar bills, and math skills. When you're out at a flea market or a tag sale, and find that overpriced thing which you cannot possibly live without, there are a few ways you can take home your holy grail while keeping to your budget.

***Flip the
page for
tips and
tricks!***



Keep it casual when you find something you're interested in, no matter how good it'll look next to your TV.

THE PRE-GAME

Rockefeller Rockefailure

Before you show up, play the pauper and make sure that your wallet only contains a few small bills. Washington and Lincoln are your friends here. Nothing spoils a negotiation like flashing a few \$50s when you're asking for the deal of the decade.

If you don't want to show up without emergency cash, consider stowing some of your money in another pocket, in your shoe, or give it to a trusted companion for safe-keeping. When you dramatically empty your whole wallet to make an offer, there'll be no mistaking that you're giving it all you've got... until the next stop, that is. And chances are that the seller would rather sell their stuff at a slightly lower profit than lug it back into storage.

Poker Face

An eagle-eyed seller can spot enthusiasm or desperation a mile away—and they have the unholy power to feed on this until your wallet is empty. Keep it casual when you find something you're interested in, no matter how good it'll look next to your TV. Every bead of sweat is another dollar out of your pocket.



Photo: Smhead

We all know (or think we know) what stuff is worth. When you hit a flea market or a tag sale, it's important to remember that prices generally aren't set in stone, and things are often priced with room for negotiation.

When making your opening offer, it's rude to offer less than half of the asking price. Aim for a realistic discount to avoid being accidentally insulting. It's also valid to note flaws in the item of your desire, but do so politely. "I noticed a crack, sir" goes a lot further than "this is a piece of garbage, you moron."

Don't cite a cheaper price that you once saw online. Sellers who are out in the hot sun don't want to hear any of your punk kid cyber-talk. You're on the mean streets now. There are different rules here.

When attending an event with a loved one, you can ask them to play the part of “person who is quickly losing patience with your collecting habits.” When it becomes clear that you won’t be sticking around for a prolonged negotiation and might end up back home and sleeping on the couch, a seller may be more likely to cut you a quick deal. Even if a discount comes your way out of sympathy, it’ll be worth it. Note: this technique is not recommended for people with existing relationship problems.

If you come across a large container of items you're interested in buying, you can offer to just purchase the whole damned thing. You know, to save the seller the trouble of selling the collection piece by piece, or having to load it back into their van. That stack of records has a few Herb Alperets, but it also has some pretty solid Coltrane.

If you come across items which have price tags on them, take note of how old those price tags look. Fresh tags indicate a relatively new item for sale, which a seller might be less willing to budge on. An old, peeling, or yellowed tag might indicate an item which has been around for a while—a misfit which a seller might be happy to just get rid of.

**An older tag
could indicate
the seller might
be willing to make
a bargain.**

The fine art of “starting to walk away” might also be enough to convince a beleaguered seller to accept your terms. With good timing, and as a final effort toward meeting your budget, slowly turn and walk away. With any luck, you’ll be called back and be handing over your cash in no time.



INTRO TO AUCTIONS

Photo: Mekeniman57

Everything You Wanted to Know About Auctions (But Were Afraid to Ask)

If you've always been a casual buyer of things, the prospect of a live auction can be terrifying. An auction is a fast-paced, intimidating event where your avarice can get the better of you in the blink

of an eye or an inadvertent wave of a paddle. We've put together a few tips to help demystify the forbidding world of the auction.

THE EARLY BIRD

Auctions are as much about preparation as they are about waving your paddle around like a madman (or woman). Auction houses will offer a preview period prior to the auction, allowing you to inspect the goods in person (or sometimes online) before they head to the block. This preview might be anywhere from a few hours to a few days in advance, so plan ahead! Not only will this enable you to make a more informed decision (something which is easy to forget in the heat of the moment), but you won't be surprised when something unexpected pops up for auction, shattering any hope you had of maintaining a budget.



Photo: Beckie Hermans

Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself

During the preview period, you should keep a keen eye out for damage typical to whatever it is you're bidding on. Chips, cracks, sun damage, frays, foxing, wear, tears, missing limbs, and sticker residue are all things which may devalue an item, and are all things which aren't visible from the audience. A nice "wooden" table might be cheap pressboard upon closer inspection. We've learned our lesson the hard way.

And while auction houses usually check the origin of an item, these inspections are not flawless, so listen to your suspicions. Due diligence is the responsibility of everyone involved.

The Whole Shebang

You might have your eye on one amazing object, but that Holy Grail might be part of a larger "lot." Auction items are sold as "lots," which can be a single item or a whole menagerie of junk. If the object of your desire is part of a larger lot, you're just going to have to deal with the whole thing. In rare cases, you might be able to ask the auction house to treat the object of your desire as a separate lot.



Photo: Beckie Hermans

THE BUCK PROBABLY STOPS HERE

After you've previewed your items and discovered which lots they'll be in, it's time to set your budget. Like any shopping list, you should prioritize the things that you can't live without and divide them from the things you'd just really like to have around. It's important to do this in advance, lest you allow your unmitigated desire for that Art Deco lamp to overcome you and devour the cash you had set aside for that Art Nouveau paperweight. Moderation is key, so write down a few numbers that you can refer to and an upper spending limit for each item in advance. And having a calculator on hand couldn't hurt.



PAYING THE PRICE

Alas, it's not as simple as just paying the price you've just bid. Auction houses generally charge a premium above and beyond the final auction price, so that they can cover their own operating costs. This premium generally falls about 10% above the final price. This cost can vary at different auction houses, so make sure you find out the percentage ahead of time and factor that into your budget as well.

And the Next Item Up for Bids...

Auctions go by quickly. The auctioneer will announce the lot number, read the description and the starting price, and the bidding starts! If no one is willing to pay the starting price, the auctioneer will drop the starting price until someone is willing to meet that price. If no one is willing to buy an item for a certain pre-determined minimum amount (the "reserve"), it will be removed from the auction.

If bidding starts to drop, think about scoring this item at a bargain—either for yourself or as a gift for someone else. Auctions can offer some of the lowest prices around if you know when to strike.

On the other hand, bidding might only go upward, in the manner to which we're all accustomed. Once the asking price of the item is established, bidding will climb in increments which can range from \$1 to \$1,000 (or even more), depending on the value of the item and the nature of the auction. Once someone bids at a certain price, the auctioneer asks if someone is willing to pay the next increment. The auction continues like this until the biggest budget is met, and the winner agrees to purchase the lot.

Auctions can offer some of the lowest prices around if you know when to strike.

That's a Paddlin'

Most auctions will give you something to hold up when you want to place a bid, be it a paddle or a card or a turkey leg. It doesn't really matter. Wave this in the air when you want to place a bid on something, and be sure to make eye contact with the auctioneer to drive your bid home. Before the auction begins, you'll need to present a form of ID in order to get your bidding device from the auction house, so arrive early and be prepared.

And if you're not actively bidding on something, be still! An errant scratch of the head can be misconstrued as a bid, and you can't back out of it later on. Fidgeters need not apply, and if you have a rash, stay home.



KICKING BUTT AND TAKING NAMES

There are a few different techniques you can employ to bring home the treasure you're after, and they each require you to think fast and pay attention.

The aggressive bidder can simply raise their hand in the air when their lot comes onto the block and leave it there until the auctioneer sees that all other bidders have dropped out and calls your bid the winner. Of course, if someone else has the same idea and a bigger budget than you do, you need to be quick to lower your hand, lest you accidentally overshoot the amount you can pay. Leaving your hand raised shows off your unwavering, terrifying tenacity.

You can also use the tried-and-true method of raising your hand and lowering it again to state your bid. This allows for a bit more thought between bids, but don't think for too long! An auction can end very suddenly, even if it's well below your budget, and you can miss out. And you can't pay for your winnings with tears.

Keep in mind that not everyone at these auctions will just be looking for that perfect thing to accent their foyer. Some of your competitors will be dealers looking for a discount so they can turn a profit in their own stores. There's nothing wrong with that—it's just capitalism's wheels churning away. These competitive dealers, however, can also be the first to bail as the prices rise and they watch their own profit margins shrink.

TEN-HUT!

No matter what you do, you need to pay attention! It cannot be stressed enough that the action at an auction moves quickly, and it's just as easy to go home with empty hands as it is to go home with empty pockets. It's up to you to determine the worse fate: paying way too much for a fancy object or going home without it. You won't need to worry about either if you're attentive.

I BID YOU ADIEU

You've paid for your stuff, and now you have to get it home. No, you can't politely ask the auction house to hold onto your stuff until you can rent

a van next weekend. It's not your mom's house, and they're not going to make you a snack, either. If you buy something, you need to take care of it.

If you don't have sufficient transport ready, the auction house might have delivery capabilities on premises. Find out ahead of time! Of course, this will be an additional expense and you'll need to be able to set all of the details up

right then and there. Check out the "Bring It On Home" section for more details!



SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE

If you don't know all of the terms you might hear at an auction, a great dictionary of auction parlance can be found at www.garstauctions.com/facts_faqs.shtml. Good luck!



THE MOBILE COLLECTOR

On The Road

Collectors are adventurers. The rabid collector is always seeking new additions to their collections: digging through mysterious, spider-filled boxes at estate sales or wandering down a backwoods dirt road following signs to a hot tag sale. When you're on the road, it helps to tap into the wide world of mobile apps from your smartphone or tablet.

The world of downloadable programs is ever-changing. As a result, we can't endorse any particular app, but here are a few good starting points to use as you search for the perfect app to complement your particular collecting habits.

Find the app to complement your collecting habits.

SETTING SALE

As you begin your hunt, you'll find apps which specialize in locating specific kinds of sales, though these are best used in conjunction with information found in ads in your local newspaper and on regional websites. Apps from **Tag Sell It** specialize in finding flea markets and estate sales, though apps like these are only as good as the information they're given. No app is smart enough to immediately pinpoint the exact location of two people haggling over the price of Action Comics #383.

Apps like **Paris: Keys to the Fleas** focus only on flea markets in Paris, while **RePurpose** focuses exclusively on Michigan estate sales. Location-based apps are out there, so have a look around for one that specializes in the niches you're most interested in.

Photo: Michelle Burke



KNOW YOUR NEEDS

We'll say it again and again, but it's pretty important to know two things when you're out collecting: *what you have* and *what you need*. If you always have this information available, you'll be able to collect with a laser-like focus. And honestly, lasers are cool.

While the tried-and-true pencil-and-paper route is certainly one way to get organized, that list of all 7,500 LPs you're looking for can get cumbersome. If lists are your thing, there are simple apps like

Evernote which allow you to create documents that you can sync between your computer and your mobile device, or you can use whatever application your smartphone has.

You can also find existing checklists to work from. **Sort It! Apps** provides lists for a wide range of collectibles, from action figures to shoes to stamps. **Three Brothers Apps** focuses their lists on the world of pop culture. There's probably a list out there for you...and if not, make one!

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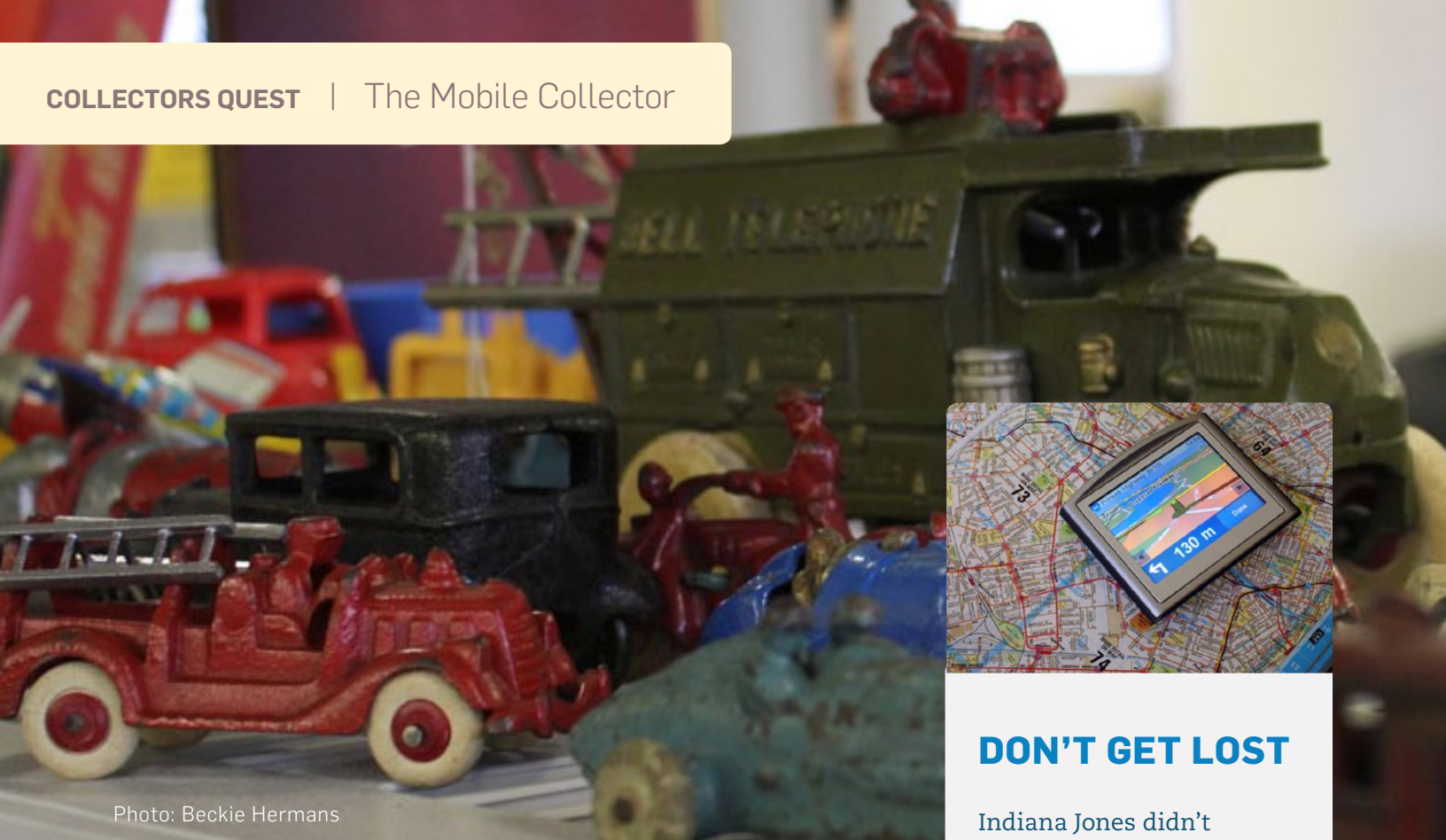


Photo: Beckie Hermans

PICTURE IT

If your collections also function as home decor, it's helpful to take a photo or two of the room you're looking to accentuate. Having these photos with you on your smartphone will enable you to make color and size comparisons while on your sofa safari. Memory can betray us when we're trying to remember if that 7-foot-long green couch is actually a 5-foot-long blue couch. Photos really do help. Adding notes about dimensions is also invaluable if you're looking for furniture and pieces for your home!

Even if you know what you want, you might not know its worth.

BUT AT WHAT COST?

Even if you know what you want, you might not immediately know what it's worth. \$5 saved on one Abraham Lincoln spoon brings you \$5 closer to that rare Taft ladle. Use your mobile device to search completed auctions and recent Internet sales to get a basic measure of something's rarity before you drop a wad of cash on it. Apps like **WorthPoint** scour the world of online auctions and take care of this stuff for you.



DON'T GET LOST

Indiana Jones didn't have a GPS when he was navigating through foreign lands in search of face-melting treasures, but you probably have one in your pocket or on your dashboard. Plugging an address into your handy GPS or smartphone map app saves you from having to flip through atlas pages and helps you avoid making wrong turns—and if you make a wrong turn, the lady who lives in the GPS will set you right again. It's not just about getting there, but about never getting lost. Adventuring is a million times more fun when you don't have to worry about finding your way home.



Photo: Barry2952

Getting Your New Stuff Back to Your Place

You've won, bought, or otherwise earned your shiny, new collectible. If you haven't hired someone to professionally transport this treasure

to your home, there are a few things that you should know before you start hefting potentially fragile, valuable, destroy-able things around!



HANDLE WITH CARE!

Every object has a weak point, and all it takes is one ham-fisted clod (or excellent ninja) to mess everything up. You don't squeeze an egg to make sure it's ripe, so treat your collectibles with intelligence and delicacy.

Simple rules and common sense apply here. If you're checking out a dresser, open the drawers with both handles (if it has 'em). If you've bought a porcelain object which has a lid or other movable part, try not to jostle these bits together, and never secure loose pieces with tape, as you can damage or peel surface decorations. And of course, when you pick something up, pick it up by the body or the frame—not by a spout, spindle, neck, or leg. If you wouldn't do it to a cat, don't do it to a collectible. And if your cat has a spindle, see a vet.

Also, wash your hands! The human hand is considered "dirty" again after only 20 minutes of exposure to the real world. If you're touching valuable things, clean hands really are essential!

What a Drag

Don't drag your stuff around! Make an effort to lift your item, as dragging can cause irreparable scratches and stress. You don't want your four-legged table to become a two-legged bike ramp because you couldn't find someone to lift the other side. Sometimes a blanket or towel placed under a large object can ease dragging motion if absolutely necessary, but proceed with caution! A gravelly driveway can still cause damage.

Treat your pieces with intelligence and delicacy.

ARE WE THERE YET?

Either you're bringing home your neat new thing in your own personal conveyance or you're getting someone professional to wrap it up and drop it off at your humble abode. If you have the bucks to get other people to do the hard stuff for you, congrats! If you're a regular person, you need to take a few more precautions.



IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT...

A hot car can be murder on collectibles, from vinyl records to fine furniture. Try to reduce the amount of time your stuff is sitting in the hot sun as much as possible. If that means skipping the greasy diner on the way home, you know what to do. I'm sure there are leftovers in the fridge.

Extreme cold isn't ideal, either, but it's still not quite as dangerous... until you move your stuff into your warm, toasty house. Condensation and thermal expansion can also cause a great deal of damage to an object, so it's best to slowly migrate stuff into your living quarters if it's a very hot or very cold day. Your garage can serve as a waiting area...and it'll still be nicer than the waiting area at the DMV.

Try to reduce the amount of time your stuff is sitting in the hot sun as much as possible.



Photo: Beckie Hermans

CAN'T BE TOO INSURED



A reputable shipping company might include insurance in their costs, but make sure! You never know what can happen to a high-priced piece on its way to your home. Elbows pop through canvas paintings every day, and truck doors close on delicate table surfaces. With a bit of insurance, you'll never have to fear the unexpected...or pay for it in full.

Take detailed photos of your object before you give it over to someone else. If there's any damage along the way, your photographic evidence can prove that it left your hands in pristine condition.



TAKING CARE OF IT!

Maintaining Your Stuff

Any collector knows that having a serious collection is a little like having a pet...but while your dog might maul your collection of vintage Barbies, your vintage Barbies will never maul your dog. You don't have to take a classic cookie jar out for a walk, and your 1980s Atari system won't whimper if you don't slop food into it twice a day. Still, serious collections require a certain amount of careful maintenance.

While a few general rules apply to all collections, it's important to remember that every collection is different and might require a few very specific techniques when it comes to proper care. Should you buy an anti-static brush for your LPs, or will paper towels do the trick? Can you use alcohol to clean sticker residue off of an action figure package without ruining the cardboard? Always check to make sure that your instincts aren't doing more harm than help!



Photo: Pamela McInnes

FALL IN LINE AND KEEP APPRAISED

Keeping yourself organized is critical, lest you doom yourself to buying the same thing over and over, or even worse, passing up an opportunity to pick up something great because your memory has betrayed you! After a while, all of those Hummels do start to look the same...

If you're collecting as an investment, it's critical to keep a detailed catalog of your collection, for both insurance and appraisal purposes. This information can be kept in a simple spreadsheet (using Excel or Google Docs) which you can backup online or via e-mail. For extra assurance, you should consider keeping a photographic record of your collection as well. Fortunately for you, Collectors Quest is all about you keeping yourself organized, and we provide free photo gallery hosting which you can use to sort out, tag, and display all of your collections!

No matter which way you organize your stuff, it's very helpful to keep detailed information on each piece, including (but not limited to): condition, how much you paid, where you got it, edition numbers, variations, and anything else which you think might be worth noting when it comes to hunting down new pieces or putting a price on your collection.

Collectors Quest provides free photo gallery hosting which you can use to sort out, tag, and display all of your collections!

LEAVE IT TO THE PROS

Repairing and restoring collectibles is a very delicate matter. It's not uncommon for someone to completely destroy a piece, aesthetically and monetarily, by attempting an amateur restoration job. Polishing the patina off of a vintage metal collectible or using the wrong kind of glue to put a first-edition book back together can make these things worthless. Patina and surface wear are often thought of as character, like that charming scar right above your lip.

Consult with an expert or get advice from online forums before you dig into any restoration work! Opinions can vary widely, so consider your sources before you take action. When in doubt, leave it alone!



Photo: Beckie Hermans

RE-USE THE REFUSE

If you're sure that something is damaged beyond salvageability, you can always repurpose it! Melting that hundredth Streisand record into a decorative fruit bowl is only the tip of the junk-berg when it comes to upcycling and creating interesting things with disused and damaged collectibles. Heck, you might even make it into something more valuable while you're making it more interesting! Either way, some might consider melting down a Streisand record to be a service to humanity.



EARTH'S YELLOW SUN AND OTHER CONCERNS

It's fairly obvious that you should never leave your collectibles, or anything but solar-powered robots and sun tea, in direct sunlight. Heat, water, and dust are just as bad for your stuff as they are for you, so try to keep things in a cool, clean environment with a relatively steady temperature. If your basement is the only place your family will let you keep your complete collection of 1950s-era *TIME* magazines, use a dehumidifier (or a humidifier) to keep the moisture in the air regulated. Either way, don't go too extreme in either direction! Moderation is key.



Photo: Beckie Hermans

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Newspapers might be great for transporting things from one place to another, but using them to keep stuff safe in storage

Using plain tissue paper is a smart way to cushion delicate items from rubbing up against one another.

can be messy if their ink is transferred onto your collectibles. Using plain tissue paper is a better way to cushion delicate items from rubbing up against one another. It's not a rave, and your stuff doesn't like to rub against other stuff, so allow it some dignity and avoid packing everything into a small space. And like a rave, storage can also be a sweaty affair, so using plastic to wrap up your items can also lead to mold and mildew.

FROM TRIPLE A TO SINGLE D

If you're storing or preserving electronic items, take out the batteries first. Old batteries can burst and leak acid onto otherwise pristine collectibles. They may also present a health hazard. You can always pop in some fresh batteries later, which will be much better for showcasing the neat stuff your electro-junk can do. By the time you get back to that Electronic Football game, those old batteries will probably be dead anyhow.

COLLECTORS

QUEST



CQ IS MORE THAN JUST AN AWESOME PLACE TO SHARE YOUR COLLECTION: IT'S A COMMUNITY OF AND FOR COLLECTORS.

SHOW OFF

It's quick and easy to display your collections for the whole world to see.

BUY & SELL

Our Market is always open and stocked with fresh picks.

MEET OTHERS

Our collector community can lend a hand on your endless quest.

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