

GARAGE SALES

Curating a Collection

Collecting is a great hobby. Some people collect records, some collect types of dishes, some things that look like pigs. Garage sales and resale shops are great ways to build your collection, whether it's an old one or one you're just getting started.

STARTING A COLLECTION

There are a lot of ways to get started collecting things. Maybe one day you noticed you had an awful lot of Fiesta dishes, started researching and fell into a collection rabbit hole. Maybe you inherited an entire herd of ceramic elephants from your uncle and they've taken over your dining room. Maybe you once bought two pig salt and pepper shakers you thought were cute, then everyone you knew started buying you pig things. No matter how it started, as long as you're having fun with it, keep going!

Check out garage sales and resale shops for items that would fit in with your collection. But remember not to get too excited; an experi-



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enced seller will sense your enthusiasm and may be less likely to budge on the price.

CURATING YOUR COLLECTION

No matter what your collection is, you'll want to

spend some time editing it. If you bought every single pig that came your way, you'd soon run out of room. Instead, you want to focus on collecting thoughtfully. Try picking a color scheme or a time period and only keep or

buy items from that time. Be cognizant of the space you have to devote to whatever it is you collect and how you want to display it, and edit your collection to fit that space. That's not to say you can't box up some of your

pieces and rotate them out. If you have appropriate storage and time, go for it! That can keep your collection fresh and give you new items for conversation every time you switch them out.

LETTING GO

Sometimes, however, you may realize that you no longer have interest or room on your shelves for part or all of your collection. There are thoughtful ways to let go, too. Maybe divest some of your more meaningful pieces to people who mean a lot to you. A friend always admired that pig candlestick or your Aunt Susan adored that orange Fiesta platter? Wrap them up and send them off to their new homes with love.

You can also choose to sell part of your collections, maybe to make room for more or to help save up for a special piece. Just remember to separate your feelings about certain pieces from the real value of it.

Sentimentality makes it priceless, but eBay definitely has a market price in mind that may be lower (or much higher) than you think. Search the internet or local sales and make note of the going price for items like yours. And always keep a good eye out for ways to negotiate the prices you want.

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BUYER’S TIP

Check the Sale Ads for Collectibles

Peruse garage sale ads for specific mentions of things you collect. It might be records, mid-century modern furniture or movie posters. If you’re setting up your own sale, make sure to mention in your advertising if you’re selling part of all of a collection.

AD SPACE