

Collectibles Checklist

Vintage Electronics

What to look for: Working condition, boxed or mint, early/limited models

Examples: *Sony Walkman (early TPS-L2, WM-DD), Apple iPod (1st gen, U2 edition, sealed), Nintendo handhelds/consoles, calculators (HP-35, HP-41, TI-59), boomboxes, hi-fi components (Marantz, McIntosh, Sansui)*

Value drivers: Original box/manuals, first/rare revisions, pristine cosmetics

Video Games and Consoles

What to look for: Old cartridges/discs, especially sealed or complete-in-box (CIB)

Examples: *NES/SNES/N64, Game Boy, Sega Genesis/Saturn/Dreamcast, early PlayStation; rare titles, misprints, limited editions*

Value drivers: CIB, low-print titles, condition grading (WATA/VGCA)

Vinyl Records

What to look for: First pressings, rare labels, promo/DJ copies, sealed

Examples: *Classic rock/jazz/soul first presses (Blue Note, Impulse!, Motown), punk/metal small-label releases, 90s-2000s first vinyl pressings*

Value drivers: Matrix/runout codes, label variations, cover condition

Books

What to look for: First editions, signed copies, small-press runs, banned/controversial

Examples: *Modern firsts (Rowling, King, Tolkien), Beat Generation, children's picture books firsts*

Value drivers: Dust jacket condition, first-state points, author signature with provenance

Comics

What to look for: Silver/bronze age (1956–1985), key issues (first appearances), newsstand variants

Examples: *Marvel/DC keys, indie keys (TMNT #1)*

Value drivers: High grade, white pages, CGC/CBCS grading, un-restored copies

Trading Cards

What to look for: Sports rookies, Pokémon/MTG/Yu-Gi-Oh!, error/limited promos

Examples: *Jordan/Brady rookies, Pokémon 1st Edition Base, MTG Reserved List*

Value drivers: PSA/BGS grade, centering/surface, sealed boxes

Toys and Action Figures

What to look for: 70s–90s toys, unopened/blister-pack, complete sets

Examples: *Star Wars Kenner (1977–85), GI Joe, Transformers G1, Masters of the Universe, early LEGO sets/minifig lots*

Value drivers: Carded/sealed, original accessories, variant figures

Board Games and TTRPGs

What to look for: Out-of-print, early Dungeons & Dragons, Avalon Hill, Games Workshop

Value drivers: Complete components, early printings, unpunched counters, sealed

Fashion and Accessories

What to look for: Designer bags, scarves, belts, sunglasses, vintage tees

Examples: Hermès, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Gucci; band tour shirts (80s–90s), limited sneakers (Nike SB, Jordan)

Value drivers: Authenticity, tags, limited runs, condition, original packaging

Watches and Jewelry

What to look for: Mechanical watches, gold/sterling jewelry, signed pieces

Examples: Rolex, Omega, Seiko (vintage divers/chronos), Cartier; gold marked 10k/14k/18k, sterling marked "925" or "Sterling"

Value drivers: Original parts, servicing history, boxes/papers, gemstones quality

Coins and Banknotes

What to look for: Pre-1965 US silver coins, key dates, proof/mint sets, error coins, old currency

Value drivers: Metal content, rarity by date/mint mark, graded by PCGS/NGC; do not clean coins

Stamps

What to look for: Classic issues, errors, covers, intact collections in albums

Value drivers: Condition, gum, centering, expertization certificates

Art and Prints

What to look for: Signed/numbered lithographs/serigraphs, listed artists, gallery labels

Value drivers: Edition size, artist market, condition, provenance

Mid-Century and Vintage Furniture/Lighting

What to look for: Designer/brand labels, original finish

Examples: Eames/Herman Miller, Knoll, Danish teak, Stilnovo, Art Deco pieces

Value drivers: Authenticity, original parts, desirable designers

Kitchenware and Glass/Ceramics

What to look for: Cast iron, colorful glass, branded cookware, discontinued china

Examples: Griswold/Wagner cast iron, vintage Le Creuset, Pyrex (rare patterns), Fire-King, Fiestaware, Waterford, Baccarat, Royal Doulton

Value drivers: Pattern rarity, size numbers, no cracks/chips, lids present

Cameras and Lenses

What to look for: Film cameras, fast primes, Leica/Canon/Nikon classics, Polaroid SX-70

Value drivers: Working shutters, clear glass, original caps/cases, limited editions

Musical Instruments and Audio Gear

What to look for: Vintage guitars/amps, synths, pedals, microphones, turntables

Examples: Fender/Gibson, Tube amps, Roland, Moog, Shure SM7, Technics 1200

Value drivers: Original components, early serials, cosmetic condition

Perfume and Beauty

What to look for: Sealed or near-full vintage perfumes, iconic bottles

Examples: Chanel, Guerlain, Dior; Lalique/Baccarat bottles

Value drivers: Sealed box, evaporation level, batch codes

Advertising, Signage, and Ephemera

What to look for: Porcelain/metal signs, soda/oil/gas, posters, postcards, ticket stubs

Value drivers: Brand desirability, condition, graphic appeal, rarity

Quick Ways to Tell if Something Might Be Valuable

✓ **Early or limited:** First editions/pressings, low serials, limited runs, misprints/errors

✓ **Condition:** Sealed/new old stock, complete-in-box, minimal wear, original finish

- ✓ **Markings:** Gold karat (10k/14k/18k), sterling/925, maker's marks, model numbers, matrix/runout codes, edition numbers (e.g., 12/250)
- ✓ **Provenance:** Receipts, appraisals, gallery labels, original warranty cards
- ✓ **Era clues:** "Made in USA/West Germany/Japan," pre-barcode packaging, older logos

How to Check Value Fast

Search sold listings (not asking prices): eBay "Sold/Completed" filters; look for exact matches by model/edition/condition

Use specialty marketplaces:

- **Sneakers/streetwear:** StockX, GOAT, Grailed
- **Watches:** Chrono24, WatchCharts
- **Music:** Discogs
- **Instruments/gear:** Reverb
- **Books/comics/cards:** AbeBooks, CGC/PSA price guides; PSA, BGS, CGC for grading
- **Furniture/art:** LiveAuctioneers, Invaluable, 1stDibs (for comps)

Consider grading/authentication: PSA/BGS (cards), CGC (comics), WATA/VGCA (games), PCGS/NGC (coins). Grading increases value for high-condition items

Ask local specialists: Record/comic/card shops, jewelers (for metal testing), auction houses with free consignment assessments

Where to Sell

- **General:** eBay, Facebook Marketplace (local bulky items), Craigslist
- **Vintage/handmade:** Etsy
- **Live selling:** Whatnot

- **Niche:** Reverb (instruments), Discogs (records), Chrono24 (watches), StockX/GOAT (sneakers), Heritage/Goldin/PWCC (high-end collectibles), local auction houses for furniture/art

Important Cautions

- ⚠ Don't clean coins, antiques, or patinated metals; cleaning can slash value
- ⚠ Keep original boxes, manuals, tags—often adds 20–100%+
- ⚠ Watch for reproductions; verify hallmarks and maker stamps
- ⚠ Ship carefully and insure high-value items