

# UNDERSTANDING THE CRAZE FOR VINTAGE, WHERE TO BUY & SELL

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In May 2017, the previous Ashley J's Home Décor & Fashions of North Aurora, relocated and opened in the former Dow Furniture building at 211 S Lincolnway (630/229-6821). With over sixty different vendors on display in 12,000 square feet of space on two floors, The Vintage Market is a destination for people who crave vintage merchandise that includes not only furniture but jewelry, clothing, lingerie, house wares, home décor, repurposed items, a wide variety of chalk paints for do it yourself projects and all kinds of knick-knacks.

The store has quickly gained a wide audience and the friendly owners and staff are one of its best advertisements. There are year round special sales that preview all the various holidays, cater specifically to ladies and customer appreciation events, each of which typically draw over a thousand shoppers. Treasures, priced moderately, abound in every area; regular customers say to allow at least a full hour to see everything. Things of interest may be accumulated for customers in special areas behind the counter while they continue to shop, which is a great time saver and convenient benefit.



Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM, Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM (Closed Monday). Credit Cards are accepted and there is adequate off street parking both in front and behind the building.

The crazy for vintage merchandise has grown immensely. There may be items gathering dust in homes that could bring a great deal of money to the owners.

Just to name a few, fifteen things that could be worth a fortune include David Bowie's "Diamond Dogs" Vinyl Albums; Retro Video Games, such as Super Nintendo, Super Mario RPG, Mega Man X3, Harvest Moon and Chrono Trigger, the latter of which have been sold for \$400-600;



Anything "Polly Pocket," original items, not the later Mattel versions, sets selling for \$300, houses for \$400; Vintage Comics that inspired today's movies and TV Shows, such as anything in the 70's Black Panther series whose single issues may be worth \$50 each; Vintage Advertising Signs, like those for Indian Motorcycles, valued at over \$200, AAA Root Beer, some at \$300 and Coke, depending on size, up to \$600; Boy Scout Memorabilia; Complete Sets of Pokémon Cards; Kansas Quarters that may say "In God We Rust," instead of "In God We Trust," due to a printing malfunction, possibly one or more nesting at the bottom of that glass or metal container of quarters; certain complete China Sets, some more valuable than others; Original Kenner Star Wars Figures, like the 1978 Luke Skywalker with double telescoping light saber which brought \$4200 or original Vehicles and Spaceships; Vintage Lunchboxes, some of the most cherished collectibles, with cartoon characters, superheroes or Rock Groups like a recent one featuring the Beatles which sold for \$400; old colored Pyrex dishes; American Girl Dolls, like the 1986 Samantha that recently brought \$4200 at auction; old Typewriters; or He Man, GI Joe or Transformers from the 80's, valuable even without their original boxes.

In other words, those toys that no longer hold interest for your kids and are settled into disuse in the back of a closet, may be worth either a little or a lot of money.



Generally speaking the term "Vintage" is highly subjective, but may be considered anything produced before the 1920's to 20 years before the present day. Retro, short for retrospective refers to things that imitate the style of a specific previous era. Vintage Clothing, in particular, is having resurgent popularity today and is quite lovely. For example, fur coats, highly popular in the 1960's are now considered "vintage." Small appliances are considered vintage if 25 to 50 years old. For furniture to be considered vintage it would typically be from 30 to 100 years old; if older than 100 years, it would be considered antique.