

# Protecting Your Collection

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# The Aim

- To provide risk management solutions and ideas to minimize the chances of losing or damaging your collection.

# The Basic Causes of Loss

1. Fire
2. Water
3. Theft
4. Travel / Shipping
5. Accidental Damage / Other

# Greatest Causes of Loss (By Value)

- Fire



- Water



# Fire

- Fire losses are the greatest cause of loss each year (by value)
- Simple steps not only protect your home and your collection, but can also save lives.
- Be aware and take advice if needed.

# Fire Protection Ideas

- Have wiring checked
- Have furnace checked annually
- Have chimney cleaned annually
- Keep multiple application fire extinguishers in several strategic locations in the home
- Make sure you change your smoke detector batteries every 6 months and replace smoke detectors according to manufacturer's guidelines.

# Water Damage

- Water damage destroys philatelic collections
- Most common causes being flood/weather related or from water sources from the home.

# Water – Protection Ideas

- Take note of where and how your collection is stored. If possible avoid attics and basements.
- Keep items at least 6 inches off the floor or higher.
- Avoid storing your collections in cardboard boxes.
- Keep some plastic sheets handy, in the event of roof damage or pipe leaks.
- Consider purchasing a humidity measuring device to control the humidity level around your collection.



# Weather Related Flood

- Move items of value to the second floor, or put them as high as is possible.
- Consider having “check” valves installed in sewer traps to prevent flood water backing up in to your house.
- Take all flood warnings seriously. Be aware of potential impact in your area.
- Keep plastic sheets on upper levels should the weather event cause both flood and wind damage to the home.

# Water Sources in the house

- Look where your collection is located – is it under a bathroom or under any pipe?
- Could it be effected if a pipe broke on a washing machine/dishwasher etc.
- If the shelves are against an outside wall – make sure the gutters are in good condition.
- Have your roof checked/repaired when necessary.
- Consider installing a water detection/alarm device.

# Theft

- Thankfully quite rare.
- Simple steps can offer effective ways to lower the risk
- No home can be theft proof, just less vulnerable.

# Theft Protection Options

## **Locks:**

- Use them!! – lock all your doors every time you go out, even if just for 5 minutes.
- Buy key operated window locks for ground floor and accessible windows.
- Fit locks or “jams” for sliding doors – these are a favorite entry point.
- Don't leave a key under the mat/flowerpot right by the door.

# Burglar Alarms

- One of the most effective prevention tools.
- They can be designed around pets etc..
- Only effective if you keep them activated.
- Panic buttons are a good idea.
- Consider installing camera systems and/or motion detector devices as part of your overall household burglar alarm system.

# Safes

- Large enough to allow albums and binders to stand upright.
- Make sure it is climate controlled.
- Be wary as some fireproof safes have built in sprinklers.

# Other Theft protection

- Good quality locking cabinets in which you can store your collection.
- Never leave workmen or other visitors in your home unattended.
- Make sure you know who has keys and change your locks if they are lost.

# Travel and Shipping

- The MOST frequent cause of loss.
- Whenever your collection is away from home it is much more at risk.
- Simple steps can minimize risks.



# Driving with your collection

- Never leave valuables in an unattended vehicle – even just for a few minutes.
- Do not have items visible in your vehicle
- Plan your route beforehand so you don't get lost.
- Take a cell phone and charger.
- Have a fire extinguisher in the vehicle.

# Shipping

- Don't ship on a Friday – more loss happen than any other day.

# Flying with your collection

- It is never recommended to store your collection in checked luggage.
- Never send your collection as “checked in” baggage. If you must, be sure to use proper TSA approved locks and luggage bags.
- Stay alert at security screening checkpoints.
- Car rental counters and taxi/Uber waiting areas are also favorite bag snatcher zones.
- Have a easily identifiable bag.

# Exhibitions

- Stay alert leaving exhibitions and try to leave as a group.
- Never review your collection in a public place.
- Try not to leave items in a hotel room, If it cannot be avoided, do not leave it somewhere visible. Use hotel safes whenever possible.

# Packing

- Put nothing on the label to suggest what is inside.
- Make sure the package can withstand handling.
- Make sure it has a return address.
- Use plain packaging to keep it anonymous looking.

# Other Possible Damage.



*Oops - I Just Spilled My Coffee.*

# Insurance Value

- Should equal the cost to replace the collection.
- Often this is much less than the Scott value – 60% can be a good guide, but VERY much depends upon the collection
- Depending upon the collection there are many ways of calculating a sensible figure

# Records

- Digital photo's or a video are a great idea
- Scans or photocopies of items are good to house.
- Keep copies of certificates and/or receipts and/or auction catalogues.
- Never keep your inventory records in the same location as your collection.



# APS Insurance

- Specific to philatelic property.
- Much less expensive than homeowners insurance.
- Not subject to onerous list requirements
- Starts from just \$25 a year
- And we would be happy to offer you a quote.