

Auction Checklist: Know What Will Sell

Before you call an auction house to evaluate your items, do a walk-through yourself to determine your estate's potential. These are the top 10 items most likely to sell at high value at auction and the ones an auctioneer will probably be most interested in.

- Vintage toys:** especially items produced before 1989. Look for Transformers, Legos, G.I. Joe, Star Wars, tin and cast-iron toys and anything related to robots. Hubley and Marx are top brands.
- Collections:** like stamps, coins, comic books or baseball cards. Silver coins have high value for their metal content. Unused stamps are worth more. Condition dictates the value.
- Vintage clothing and hats:** (must be in top condition). Items from 1940s and earlier are often hand-made and more valuable. Post-1950, designer items will fetch more.
- Mid-century housewares:** especially baking pieces from Fiesta, Pyrex, or Glasbake. Vintage mixers from KitchenAid and Sunbeam and other period appliances can be valuable.
- Jewelry:** even costume pieces. In particular, look for silver, low-carat gold, and Bakelite pieces.
- Original art and other decorative pieces:** does not have to be from a well-known artist! Paintings are preferable to sculpture.
- Antique, handmade or specialty workshop tools:** particularly woodworking tools. Any specialized or heavy-duty tool made prior to 1980 is likely to have resale value.
- Furniture:** antiques older than 100 years and high-quality handmade furniture in hardwood or quality veneers. Classic mid-century furniture is also popular.
- Historical collections:** especially those with a story behind them that can be authenticated.
- Vintage accessories:** like fountain pens, watches, smoking paraphernalia, eyeglasses and more. The funkier and more vibrant, the better.

We provide our DIY information as a service to families settling estates or helping with a family member's transition to assisted living. If your project requires a physical transition or estate cleanout, give us a call anytime for a free consultation: (800) 913-7747.