WE BUY GUNS

Gun Collection Selling Checklist

A step-by-step, tick-box checklist for collectors, families and executors

Selling a collection goes more smoothly, and usually ends better, when you do things in order: know what you have, keep it safe, understand its value, compare your options, and follow the law on every transfer. Work down the list at your own pace.

Collection / estate: _____ Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

1 Inventory every firearm

- [ ] Find and count every firearm: safes, closets, vehicles, storage units, gun cases
- [ ] For each one, record the **make** (manufacturer), **model** and **type** (handgun, rifle, shotgun)
- [ ] Record the **serial number** and the **caliber or gauge** (often stamped on the barrel or frame)
- [ ] Note the **condition**, using the Condition Key in our intake spreadsheet (Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor or Unknown)
- [ ] List accessories that go with each gun: optics, magazines, cases, original boxes, manuals
- [ ] **Photos:** both sides of each firearm, the serial number area, markings or engravings, and any wear or damage
- [ ] Put each gun's photos in its own folder, named to match its line on the list (for example *sw-686*; use *sw-686-1*, *sw-686-2* for duplicates)
- [ ] Use the free **intake spreadsheet**: webuyguns.com/downloads/WeBuyGuns__gun-collection-intake.xlsx (it has columns for make, model, caliber, condition, photo folder and notes)
- [ ] Keep a dated copy of the finished inventory with your records

2 Gather the documents

- [ ] Purchase receipts and earlier bills of sale
- [ ] **NFA paperwork** for any machine gun, suppressor, short-barreled rifle or shotgun, or other NFA item (approved ATF registration forms and tax stamps). Keep it with the item it belongs to
- [ ] Any permits, licenses or registrations your state issues
- [ ] **Provenance:** factory letters, appraisals, military or family history, old photos, letters, display tags
- [ ] Original boxes and manuals, kept with the matching gun
- [ ] Estates: the documents that show who has authority to sell (for example, the executor's court appointment)

Missing receipts or boxes are common, so just note what's missing. If an item may be an NFA item and you can't find its paperwork, set it aside, leave it secured, and ask before doing anything else with it.

3 Secure and store the collection

- [ ] Lock firearms in a safe or locked cabinet and limit access to authorized people only
- [ ] Keep keys and combinations under your control
- [ ] Make sure firearms are unloaded. If you're not experienced, don't load, unload or test them; ask someone qualified
- [ ] Store ammunition separately. Don't put old ammunition in the trash; ask a local range or hazardous-waste facility
- [ ] Don't clean, refinish or swap parts. It can lower collector value
- [ ] Avoid moving the collection until you know the rules that apply
- [ ] If storing at home isn't appropriate, a licensed dealer or secure storage provider may be able to help
- [ ] Check that insurance covers the collection while it's stored

Quick inventory log (add sheets as needed, or use the intake spreadsheet)

Make	Model	Type	Caliber	Serial number	Condition	Photos / docs / NFA?

4 Get it valued

- ☐ Decide which value you need: insurance replacement value, fair market value (for estate accounting), or what a buyer will pay now
- ☐ Value depends on make and model, condition and originality, rarity, historical interest, demand, and original box and paperwork. Don't judge it by age or looks alone
- ☐ Get a professional review of the whole collection, especially for rare, historic or high-value pieces
- ☐ Get more than one quote, so you have a number to compare offers against
- ☐ Keep every valuation and quote in writing with your records

5 Compare your options

Option	Often a good fit for	Keep in mind	Quote
Local dealer or pawn shop	A quick, in-person sale	Offers are priced to leave room for resale, so they usually come in below retail. You transport the guns yourself.	☐ $_____
Auction house	Rare, historic or high-demand pieces, where bidding can raise the price	Commissions and fees vary by house. You wait for the next sale and then for payout. Results depend on who bids.	☐ $_____
Consignment	Owners who can wait for the right buyer	The seller takes a commission, and there's no set date for when a piece sells or you're paid. Ask for the terms in writing.	☐ $_____
Online buyer (such as WeBuyGuns.com)	Selling the whole collection at once	One offer for everything, and the collection is shipped rather than handed over in person. You get one buyer's offer, not open bidding.	☐ $_____

Private sales are another option where the law allows; they must follow your state's transfer rules, and you vet the buyer yourself.

6 Legal and shipping basics

- ☐ Confirm you have the right to sell: you own the firearms, or you're the executor or have the authority to act for the estate
- ☐ Check federal law and **your state's rules** before any sale or transfer. Some states require background checks, waiting periods or a dealer for private sales. Our state guides: webuyguns.com/legal-guides
- ☐ Sell to or through a licensed dealer (an **FFL**, federal firearms licensee), or follow your state's private-transfer rules. Never transfer a firearm to someone who can't legally own one
- ☐ **Don't ship firearms yourself** without checking the law. Federal law, state law and carrier rules all apply
- ☐ Sales or moves across state lines add rules, so check first
- ☐ NFA items need federal approval before they change hands. Don't sell, lend or move them until that's handled
- ☐ Keep records: bills of sale, transfer receipts, shipping records, compliance paperwork
- ☐ Selling to WeBuyGuns? We ensure and handle compliance in every state

How WeBuyGuns works

- **Offers in under 48 hours**
- **Insured shipping** for your collection
- **Payment goes out once your collection is received and inspected**
- **Payment by ACH or check only**
- **We ensure and handle compliance in every state**
- **NFA items:** we handle the transfer process on your behalf

Get your offer: webuyguns.com/get-offer or call (317) 804-8713

WeBuyGuns.com · 20418 Commerce Park Drive Unit F, Westfield, IN 46074

General information only, not legal advice. Firearm laws vary by state and change over time. Check current federal and state law, or talk to an attorney, before you sell, transfer or ship any firearm.