



Darla Rowley  
Impact Interior Design Solutions, LLC  
10/18/09

### **Personal Collections**

Did you make the mistake 15 years ago of mentioning that you love owls, only to find that on every gift-giving occasion thereafter, you were given a stuffed, porcelain or painted feathered friend?

Sometimes we set out to collect; other times our collections seem to find us. In either case, over time these little trinkets, collectibles and mementos begin to overpower our living space.

Collections can be fun, but it's important to keep them in perspective. If you collect figurines, for example, consider having one place where you display them. If you cannot fit the entire collection, rotate it on a monthly or quarterly basis. That way you get to share and enjoy your passion without it taking over the house.

When a collection "takes over" it can dramatically influence the space we live in. And usually not in a good way. Further, some collections carry unexpected costs. I recently with a friend about a Precious Moments™ collection, and she had just learned that it was going to cost additional \$300 per year to have it included on the homeowners policy. She had also purchased a \$1500 display cabinet for her collection.

Unfortunately many collections merely become dust magnets, and after a few years the collector loses interest or the collection's appeal disappears under a layer of dust or amid the clutter.

If your collection is large, consider editing it down to just your favorites. Store, sell or gift the rest of the collection. Confine the collection to one or two areas of your home and find an attractive way to display them so that they are a pleasure to look at...not a distraction from the beauty of your home.

If you are selling your house, consider wrapping and packing them for moving before getting your house ready for showing. You want buyers to remember the house, not your 489 owls.

And remember, never tell friends and family you collect or even "like" anything...unless you want to receive hundreds of them.

