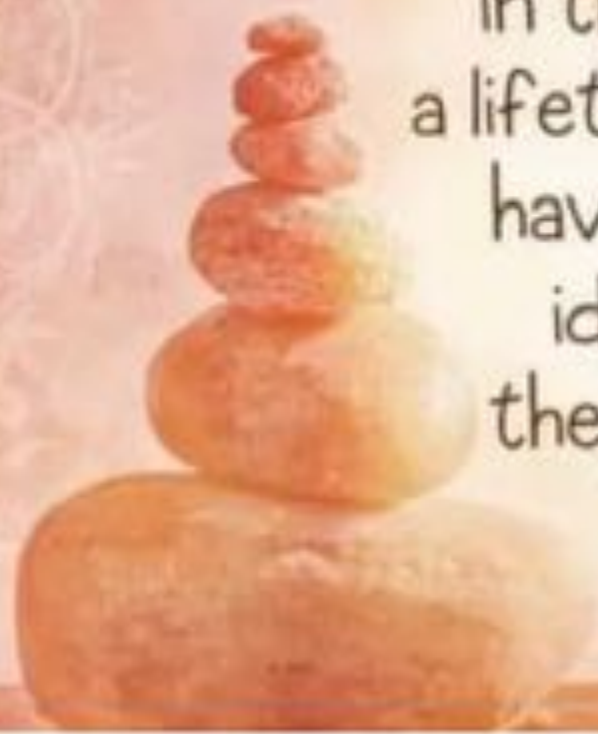


*ORGANIZING YOUR ROCKS,
MINERALS & FOSSILS*

OR... WHERE DO I PUT ALL THIS STUFF?

True rock collectors gather
at least ten thousand rocks
in the course of
a lifetime without
having the least
idea of where
they'll put them
when they
get home



Make a plan:

- **WHERE WILL I STORE IT?**
- **HOW MANY CATEGORIES DO I NEED?**
- **WHAT TYPE OF STORAGE CABINETS OR CONTAINERS WILL I USE?**
- **HOW MUCH SPACE DO I NEED?**



First, you need to survey all your materials.

DETERMINE IF YOU WANT TO KEEP OR DISCARD ANY ITEMS.

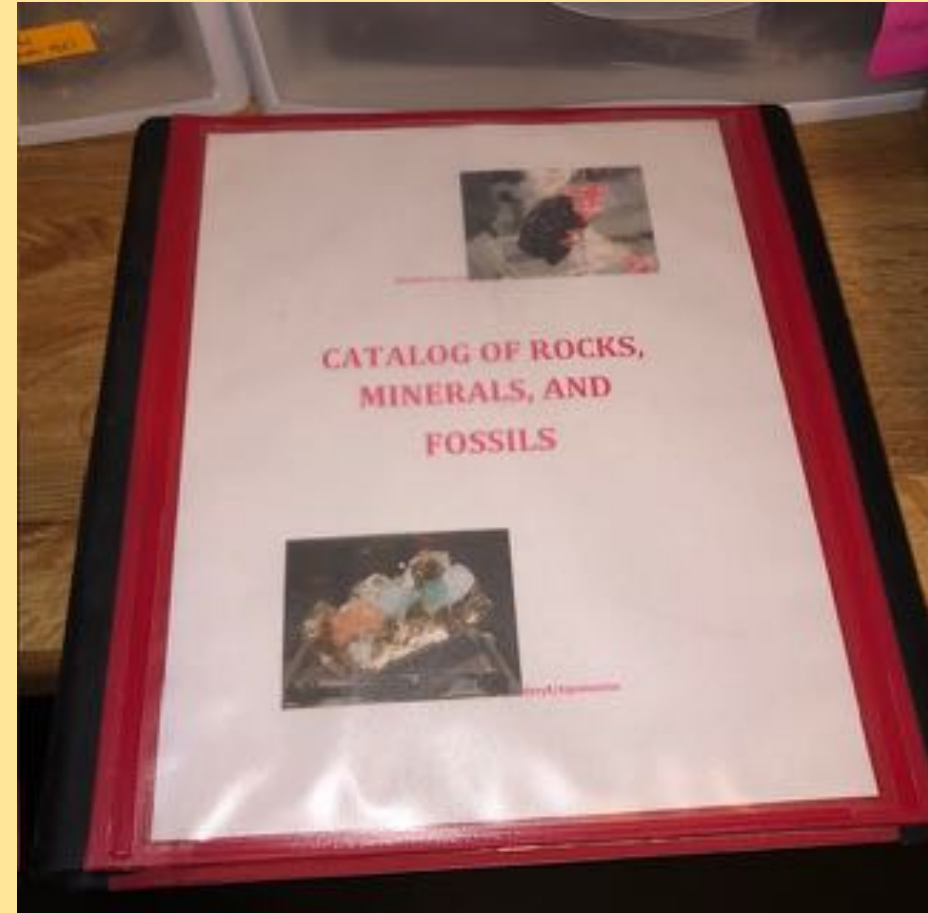
SEPARATE ITEMS INTO GROUPS OR KNOW LOCATION.

CHOOSE A STARTING POINT. HAVE A TIME LINE – 6 MONTHS TO A YEAR.



Decide how to organize information.

- **USE AN EXCEL FILE**
- **MAKE A HARD COPY/SAVE TO COMPUTER**
- **MAKE LISTS BY CATEGORY**
- **FIGURE OUT HOW TO ADD ADDITIONAL ITEMS**
- **ENSURE THE LIST/FILES CAN BE SAVED & STORED**



Headings are vital for each category.

FOR MINERALS, I USED “MINERAL NAME, IT’S SOURCE, THE FORMULA, WHERE I GOT IT WITH DATE OF ACQUISITION, AND A DESCRIPTION WITH THE PRICE IN LAST COLUMN”.

Mineral Name	Source	Formula	Where I Got It	Date of Acquisition	Description and Price
Quartz	Local	SiO_2	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$5.00
Calcite	Local	$CaCO_3$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for construction. Price: \$10.00
Halite	Local	$NaCl$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for salt. Price: \$2.00
Fluorite	Local	CaF_2	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for optics. Price: \$15.00
Pyrite	Local	FeS_2	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$3.00
Malachite	Local	$Cu_2(OH)_2CO_3$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$8.00
Amethyst	Local	SiO_2	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$12.00
Topaz	Local	Al_2SiO_5	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$18.00
Emerald	Local	$Be_3Al_2Si_6O_{18}$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$25.00
Sapphire	Local	Al_2O_3	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$20.00
Ruby	Local	Al_2O_3	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$22.00
Peridot	Local	$Mg_3Si_2O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$10.00
Spinel	Local	$MgAl_2O_4$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$15.00
Garnet	Local	$Fe_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$12.00
Staurolite	Local	$Al_7Si_5O_{22}$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$18.00
Andalusite	Local	Al_2SiO_5	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$15.00
Kyanite	Local	Al_2SiO_5	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$15.00
Enstatite	Local	$MgSiO_3$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$10.00
Diopside	Local	$CaMgSi_2O_6$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$12.00
Actinolite	Local	$Ca_4Mg_3Si_8O_{22}$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$15.00
Hornblende	Local	$Ca_2Mg_5Si_8O_{22}$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$18.00
Plagioclase	Local	$Ca_{1-x}Al_2Si_{2+2x}O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$10.00
Orthoclase	Local	$KAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$12.00
Microcline	Local	$KAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$12.00
Albite	Local	$NaAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$10.00
Perthite	Local	$NaAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$10.00
Microcline	Local	$KAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$12.00
Orthoclase	Local	$KAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$12.00
Albite	Local	$NaAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$10.00
Perthite	Local	$NaAlSi_3O_8$	Local	1980	Common mineral, used for jewelry. Price: \$10.00

Have patience & work in small units.



- **USE CONTAINERS THAT FIT YOUR NEEDS & LEAVE SPACE FOR ADDITIONS.**
- **BE CREATIVE. THIS IS A CHRISTMAS BULB STORAGE CONTAINER.**
- **DECIDE ON LABELING PROCESS & TYPE OF LABEL – CUT UP INDEX CARDS, STICKY LABELS, PLAIN OR COLORED.**

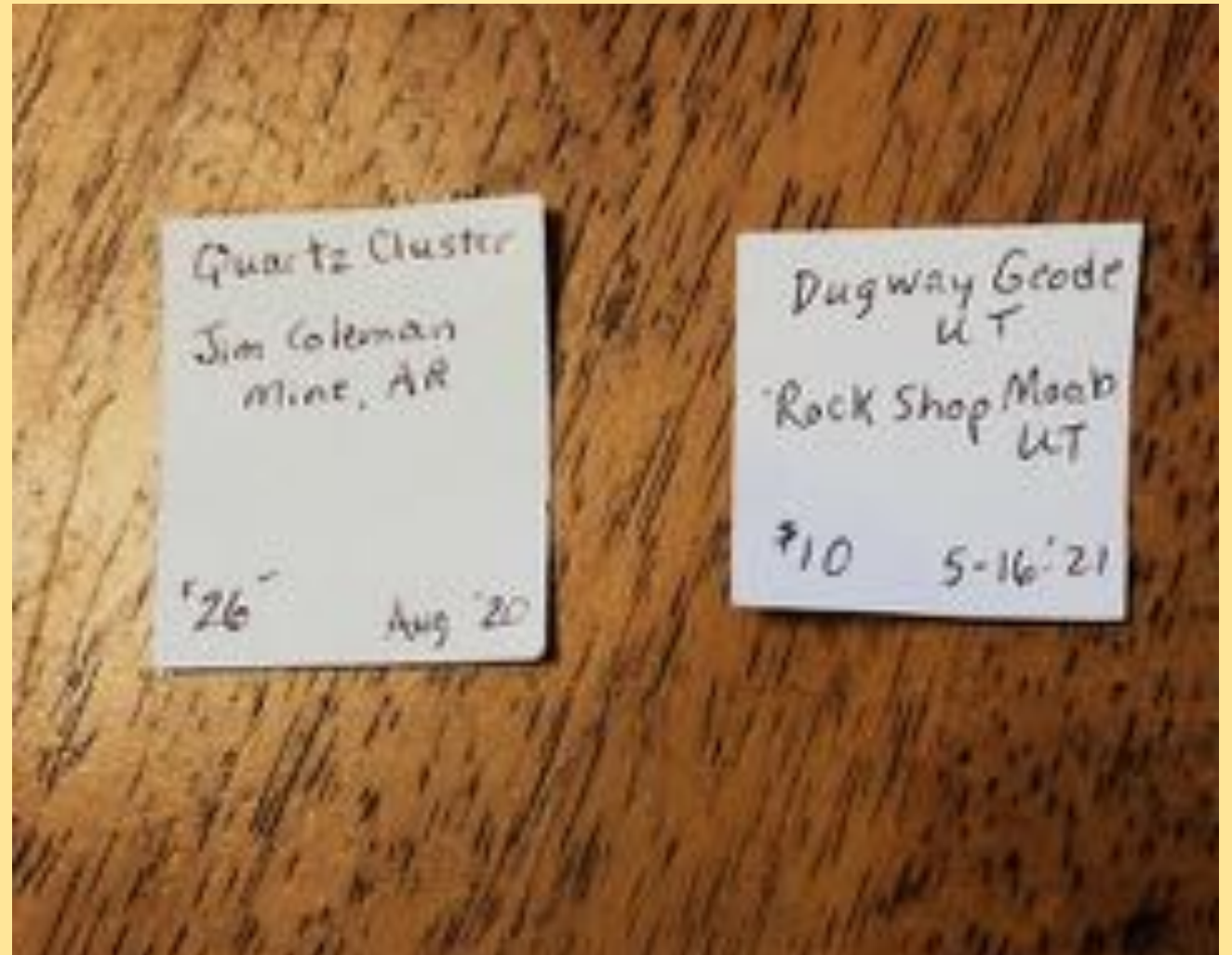
Use Baggies for small items



- I BUY BAGS FROM AMAZON, WAL-MART, OR MICHAEL'S
- I ALSO USE SNACK BAGS & SANDWICH BAGS

Label information:

- NAME OF MINERAL, ROCK, OR FOSSIL
- ORIGIN OF ITEM
- LOCATION - WHERE YOU GOT IT
- PRICE
- DATE OF ACQUISITION
- {YOU MAY CHOOSE TO USE PROFESSIONAL TYPED LABELS}

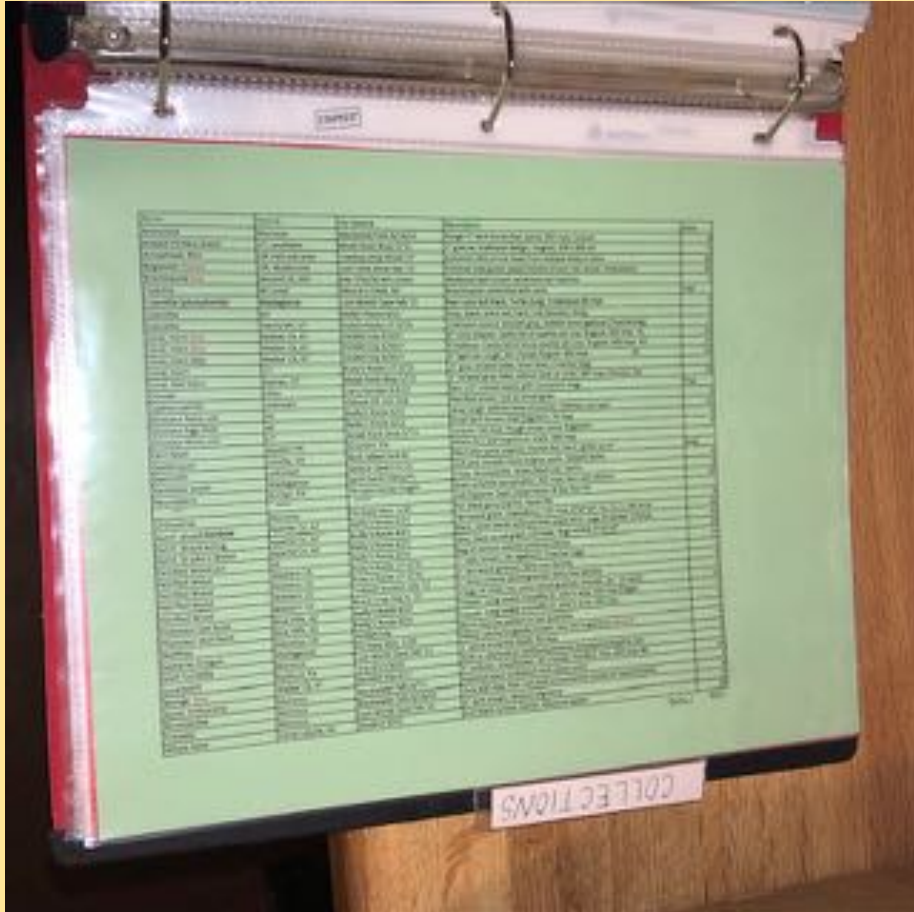


Special labels

- **I MADE SPECIAL LABELS FOR TOXIC MINERALS AND FOR RADIOACTIVE ONES.**
- **THEY ARE KEPT IN A SEPARATE BOX FROM ALL THE OTHERS.**



Develop categories & headings for groups



A binder with a green sheet of paper containing a detailed table with multiple columns and rows of text, likely a collection log or inventory list. A small white label at the bottom of the page reads "COLLECTIONS".

Category	Item	Date	Location	Notes
Minerals	Quartz	2018	Smithsonian	...
Rocks	Granite	2019	Field	...
Micros	Ammonite	2020	Museum	...
Fluorescent	Fluorite	2021	Lab	...
Fossils	Dinosaur	2022	Excavation	...
Collections	Shells	2023	Beach	...



Table of Contents:

- Minerals
- Rocks
- Micros
- Fluorescent
- Fossils
- Collections

(White sheets are prior to March 2018)
(Blue sheets are from March 2018 to December 2024)
(On Blue & Green sheets the type gives location of item other than noted category)
(Green sheets are from 2025 to 2027)

Use stacked roller trays to group items.



My Collections:



My Collections....



My Collections....



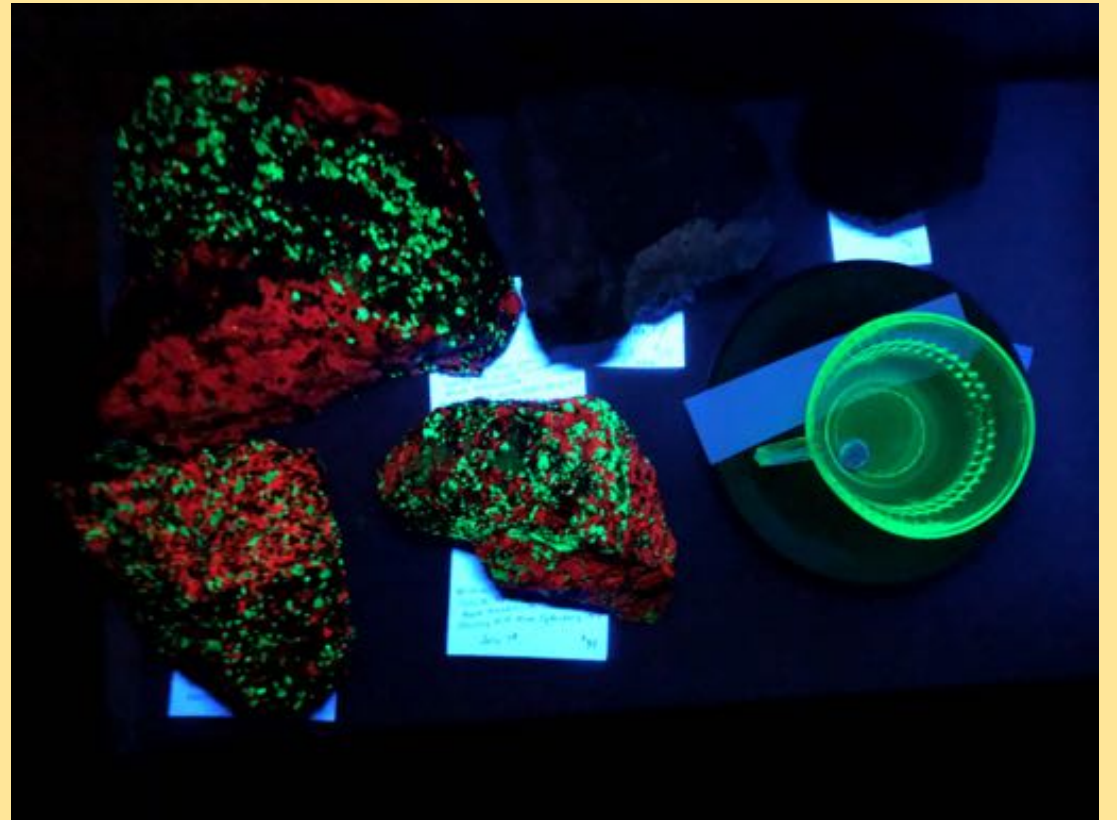
My Collections....



Collection given to me by a friend.



Fluorescent minerals:



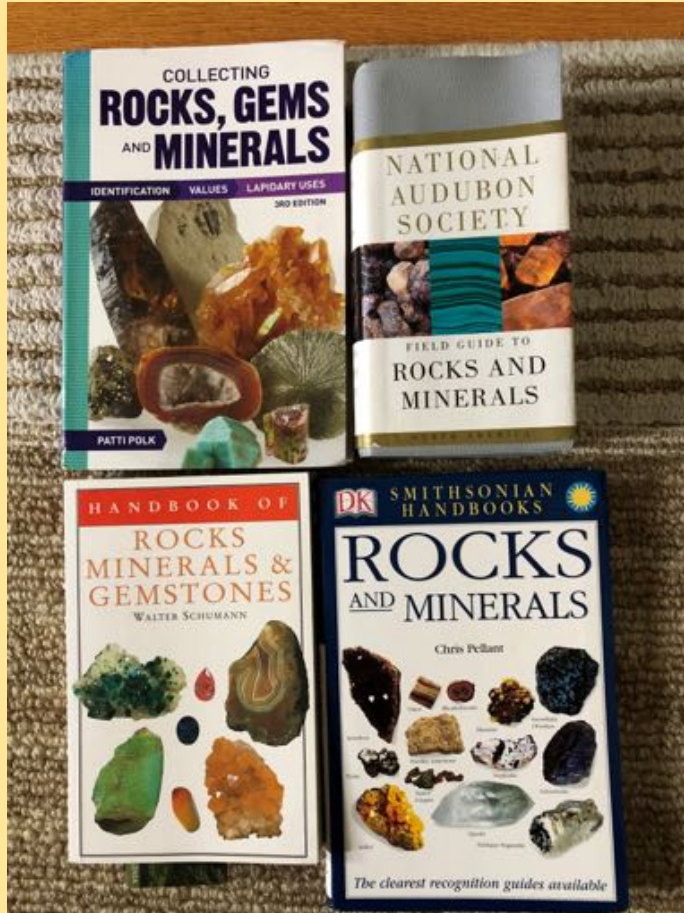
Collections ordered from the internet.



Large specimens...indoors & outside



Resources to aid in identification:



- **THIS IS A GREAT WEBSITE:
WWW.MINDAT.ORG**

I keep all my Rock & Gem Magazines



*When all else fails, go to this website from
Rock & Gem magazine:*

<https://www.rockngem.com/how-to-store-a-rock-collection-properly/>

Displays of my favorites at home



- **IF YOU HAVE A LARGE COLLECTION, YOU MAY NEED TO ADD AN INSURANCE RIDER ON YOUR HOME POLICY.**
- **PRICES ARE FROM PERSONAL PURCHASE OR ESTIMATES FROM EBAY OR OTHER WEBSITES.**

**THIS PROJECT IS PERSONALLY
YOURS – USE YOUR OWN IDEAS
AND CREATIVITY. HAVE
PATIENCE AND MOST OF ALL,
HAVE FUN!!!
...YOUR HEIRS WILL THANK YOU.**