

Shopping & Acquisitions

	Collectors	Compulsive Shoppers	Hoarders
Reason for Purchase	Able to buy/sell according to mission	Feel compelled to buy; buy more than needed; able to discard possessions; go on binges	Feel compelled to buy or save; fail to discard worthless objects; acquire/save giveaways
Justification for Purchase	Base acquisition on the collection's needs	Can always buy more; usually do	Might need it later; items have great value, especially if free (practically irresistible) or even stolen
Degree of Control over Purchases	Attend meetings/conferences with like-minded collectors	Able to prioritize, set parameters; have control over choices; often purchase multiples of favorites	Difficulty making decisions re: what to keep, where, how long, so they keep it all
Intended Destination of Purchase	Integrate new acquisitions into collection	Often quite organized; usually able to categorize	Depends on space available or do not plan this far ahead
Actual Integration of Purchase into Environment	Possessions organized and well maintained; exhibition of pieces may rotate if space limited	Shop and drop; or use, lose and replace; often purchase additional storage containers or units in effort to "get organized"	Grossly disorganized; randomly scattered; difficulty categorizing; Becomes clutter or health/safety hazard; clutter is more severe, dirtier
Effect on Environment	Usually under control or moved to appropriate space	Clutter interferes with purpose of the space	Clutter interferes with purpose of the space
Effect on Social Life	Willingly displayed for others; proud of acquisitions	May or may not be isolated	Social isolation, embarrassed by possessions, conditions

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Written by Lynne Gilberg

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Effect on Finances	Budget time/money for collecting	May be in debt, often extreme; know they can't afford it	Often in debt, sometimes extreme
Effect on Emotions	Less dependent on emotion; make more rational choices	The behavior or contemplation of its cessation impairs functioning	The behavior or contemplation of its cessation impairs functioning
The Feel-Good Effect	Satisfied by new acquisitions	Some enjoy the hunt; others enjoy the usage	Ashamed, sad or depressed after acquiring

Collectors may become compulsive shoppers; compulsive shoppers may become hoarders. The progression from one degree of control over shopping to another is not necessarily likely to occur, but it can. The emotional attachment to the objects is different.

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