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Hot Collections, Cool Coverage

What do [Hot Wheels](#) and [Barbie dolls](#) have in common, besides being the #1 boy and #1 girl toy of all time? Ruth Handler created the first Barbie doll in 1959 and named it for her daughter, Barbara. In 1968, Elliot Handler created the original Hot Wheels to be a more "tricked out" version of the then more realistic Matchbox cars. Ruth and Elliot were husband and wife.



Large collectors of the toys tend to be very passionate about them, usually starting in childhood. The woman with the [largest Barbie collection](#) runs a "hospital" where she fixes broken Barbies. The man with the largest [Hot Wheels collection](#) (valued at over \$1 million) even had his home office designed to resemble Elliot's office in 1970.

Collectors of other iconic and lesser-known toys also tend to be equally devoted if not more so. Some collections may be extensive, include rare specimens and still not really be worth anything, such as [this collection](#) of over 11,000 "Do Not Disturb" signs. Other collections are [worth a wee bit more](#). Your own clients' collections will likely fall somewhere between, with some requiring [detailed planning](#) to protect them, including insurance.

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- Curating services for collectors

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