

Save Your Boxes & Receipts

One of the many things my mother taught me was to keep receipts, tags, and boxes in the event that I needed to return the merchandise. How many times did I toss the receipt or throw away the box, only to discover that the item was not the right size or the wrong color or I just don't like the way the garment or shoe fit . . . in other words, an "impulse purchase" . . . Impulse Purchase . . . Never! By today's standards, returning an item without a receipt could mean that your refund is cut in half because the item has been discounted or is no longer in inventory. So having that receipt when returning merchandise means that you will receive your full refund. The same holds true for resale. Whether you are reselling in a store or online, there are things that one must take into account when deciding to consign or resell.

The more information you can provide about your items, the better. The receipt, price tags, designer label, authenticity cards, and fabric information all help to add value to your garments. This especially holds true when consigning what I call "high end" designer items such as Chanel, Hermes, St John, Louis Vuitton, Jimmy Choo, Christian Louboutin, Escada, Louis Feraud, Ferragamo, Stuart Weitzman. When consigning shoes, having the box and dust covers means the consignor receives 15-20% more on the sale of the shoe and if the receipt is there it means even more. This especially holds true when items are placed on eBay for auction. Many items will have NWT (New With Tags) or NIB (New In Box) in their descriptions.... that item will sell for more. Designer labels should always be left in the garment. Without the designer labels, many consignment shops will not take the item. It is hard to sell an item without knowing who made it. The fabric information tags should also be left intact. Wool items will increase in value at least 50% when the word 'cashmere' can be found inside the garment. FYI...many dry cleaners will not even accept clothing without the fabric tag. It is often very difficult to determine the authenticity of Reptile, Ostrich, leather, and suede, but having labels and tags will help get the most out of these items. A reputable person can help you authenticate you items,

like Eric at Houston Shoe Hospital on Shepherd who is an expert in identifying the real from fake reptile items. Beware of the word 'pleather' which is used to describe faux leather items.

When consigning furs the same holds true, but getting an appraisal from a reputable furrier means the difference in night and day when it comes to selling the fur. The cold storage and treatment receipts make a big difference to many buyers. Customers are leery of purchasing a fur that has not been properly cared for or in cold storage for a lengthy period of time. That's why the receipt is so important. Many furriers will provide you with an appraisal at a minimum charge.

With the market being flooded with faux/fake designer label items, the more information you can provide the better chances you have at reselling at a higher price and much more quickly. Debbie Damon, at B'Dazzled, will ask her consignors if certain high-end designer items, especially handbags, are in fact 'authentic'. She understands that by having faux/fake items in her boutique, there are legal repercussions. Asking the consignor saves her staff time by not having to research the item. But even then, Debbie and her staff have had to tell consignors that their items were not authentic, to the surprise of the consignor who didn't have the knowledge to know otherwise. The faux/fakes are made so much like the authentic bag that it sometimes takes an expert to tell the difference, and even the experts sometimes have a hard time telling the difference. All I can say is 'Shoppers Beware' especially if you are shopping online. If you don't like these kind of surprises.... purchase from an authorized retail store.

Debbie Damon is the owner of B'Dazzled. She has been shopping consignment/resale boutiques and consigning for over 15 years before she purchased B'Dazzled. Debbie is a member of STARS (South Texas Association of Resale Shops) and NARTS (National Association of Resale & Thrift Shops) which she claims is a valuable asset to her business. There is valuable information on both websites to members as well as consumers.

To All Consignment/Resale Shoppers & Consignors...

Thank you for all your support

Keep Cleaning Out Those Closets!