

How to Care for and Store Vintage China

Tea Notes from Porcelain Passport

Vintage china is more than just dishware - it's history you can hold, and sometimes even family you can set a table with. Whether you've inherited a set, picked up a few favorites from an estate sale, or ordered a treasure from Porcelain Passport, here's how to keep your pieces beautiful for years (or generations) to come.



🥟 1. Gentle Cleaning is Key

Most vintage china should be hand-washed, even if it looks sturdy. Dishwashers may be convenient, but they can damage delicate glazes, gold trim, and hand-painted designs.

Tips for washing vintage china:

- Use warm water not hot
- Mild dish soap only (no bleach or citrus-based detergents)
- Soft sponges or cloths (no scouring pads)
- Wash one piece at a time to prevent bumps and chips
- Let air dry or gently pat dry with a soft towel

Avoid soaking pieces with metallic detailing, and never use the dishwasher for anything with gold or platinum trim.



2. Inspect for Cracks or Crazing

Vintage china often has crazing - those fine spiderweb cracks in the glaze. It's usually cosmetic, but pieces with deep cracks or chips should be handled carefully and stored separately if used for display only.

If a piece has a crack that reaches the rim or base, avoid using it for food or liquids.



3. How to Store Safely

Proper storage makes all the difference between preserving your pieces or accidentally damaging them over time.

Our favorite tips:

- Stack with care: Place felt, soft cloth, or paper towels between each plate or bowl to prevent scratching
- Store cups upright: Avoid stacking teacups inside one another store them right-side up to protect the rims
- Use acid-free tissue or bubble wrap for long-term storage
- Keep in a dry, stable environment moisture and temperature swings can weaken fine china
- Label storage boxes clearly and avoid storing anything too heavy on top

Bonus tip: If storing long-term, check once a year to make sure everything is still in good condition - and take the opportunity to admire your collection!



Displaying vintage china is part of the fun - but dust and sunlight can damage it over time.

- Use glass-front cabinets or wall racks to keep dust away
- Rotate pieces seasonally to avoid fading or exposure
- Consider plate stands or shadow boxes for single display pieces
- Keep away from direct sunlight and kitchen humidity



Caring for vintage china doesn't have to be complicated - just thoughtful. These pieces have already stood the test of time; with a little help from you, they'll stay beautiful for years to come.

Looking for something specific? Need help identifying a pattern? Drop us a note - we're always happy to talk treasures.

Until next time,

– The Porcelain Passport Team