



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

# Buying legally: making sure it's above board

Before buying cultural property, do your research.

## The seller

- > Verify the identity of the seller.
- > Buy from a member of a professional trade association.

## The object

Check the object against:

- > [The Movable Cultural Heritage Prohibited Exports Register](#)
- > Australia's standing agreements with foreign countries.

The databases of stolen art such as:

- > **The Art Loss Register**  
[www.artloss.com](http://www.artloss.com)
- > **Nazi Looted Art**  
[www.lootedart.com](http://www.lootedart.com)
- > **INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art**  
[www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Cultural-heritage-crime/Stolen-Works-of-Art-Database/Application-form-to-access-INTERPOL-s-Works-of-Art-Database](http://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Cultural-heritage-crime/Stolen-Works-of-Art-Database/Application-form-to-access-INTERPOL-s-Works-of-Art-Database)
- > **ICOM Red Lists of cultural objects at risk**  
[www.icom.museum/en/resources/red-lists](http://www.icom.museum/en/resources/red-lists)

## Documentation

Check any documentation about the history of the object, for example:

- > Is there a history of ownership relating to the object?
- > Is there a certificate of authenticity?
- > Is there a condition report available?
- > If the object comes from a foreign country is there an export permit?
- > If you buy the object ensure that you have a written invoice, signed and dated by the seller, with their name, address and full details of the object.

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**Jordanian pots**  
Hasemite Kingdom of Jordan



Image courtesy  
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Prime Minister and Cabinet

## International cultural heritage laws

### > UNESCO

If the object comes from a foreign country check the relevant international cultural heritage law on the UNESCO website.

[www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws](http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws)

### > Crime Stoppers Australia

If you have any suspicions about an object and believe that a criminal offence has taken place you can report it to the police.

**Phone:** 1800 333 000

**Website:** [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

## Contact us

### > Cultural Property Section

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications  
and the Arts

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