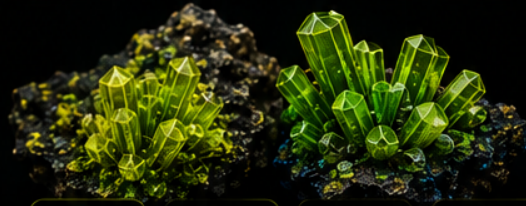




# CURATION GUIDE

## BEST PRACTICES FOR COLLECTING, CARING FOR, AND PRESERVING URANIUM SPECIMENS

Proper curation preserves the scientific value, natural beauty, and long-term integrity of your uranium mineral specimens.



**PRESERVE**  
Protect your specimens



**DOCUMENT**  
Maintain provenance



**PROTECT**  
Store and handle with care



**EDUCATE**  
Share knowledge responsibly

### 1. BEFORE YOU COLLECT



**KNOW THE LAW**

Collect only where permitted. Follow all local, state, and national laws and regulations.



**RESPECT THE LAND**

Minimize your impact. Do not damage habitats, structures, or private property.



**SAFETY FIRST**

Uranium minerals are generally safe to handle, but always practice good field safety. Bring water, gloves, and radiation monitoring equipment.



**PLAN AHEAD**

Research the locality, target minerals, and expected conditions. Check weather and access requirements.

### 2. COLLECTING RESPONSIBLY



Collect small and responsibly. Leave plenty for others and for science.



Avoid damaging host rocks containing delicate crystals.



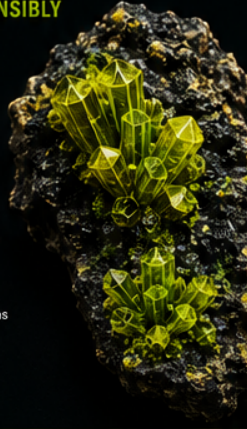
Record exact location (GPS), date, and geological context.



Photograph specimens in place before collecting.



Use appropriate tools and techniques to extract specimens without unnecessary damage.



### 3. FIELD DOCUMENTATION



**LOCATION**

Record GPS coordinates, elevation, and map reference.



**DATE & TIME**

Note the date and time of collection.



**GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Describe the host rock, mineral associations, and collecting conditions.



**PHOTOS**

Take clear photos of the specimen in place and surrounding landscape.



**NOTES**

Include collector name, weather, and any other relevant observations.

### 4. HANDLING YOUR SPECIMENS



**HANDLE MINIMALLY**

Handle specimens as little as possible. Use gloves to keep oils and dirt off the surface.



**SUPPORT, DON'T GRIP**

Support the specimen from below. Avoid gripping delicate crystals.



**WORK OVER SOFT SURFACES**

Use foam pads or cloth when examining specimens to prevent accidental drops.



**KEEP IT CLEAN**

Keep hands, tools, and work areas clean.

**USE GLOVES**

Nitrile gloves are ideal. They protect both you and the specimen.



**TIP**

Many uranium minerals fluoresce under UV light. Handle in subdued light to best observe fluorescence.

### 5. CLEANING GUIDELINES

Clean only when necessary. Over-cleaning can damage delicate crystals and reduce specimen value.

**SAFE METHODS**

- Soft brush (dry)
- Compressed air
- Distilled water rinse (for non-soluble minerals)
- Wooden picks or toothpicks
- Pat dry with soft cloth

**AVOID**

- Ultrasonic cleaners
- Acids or harsh chemicals
- Bleach or solvents
- Vigorous scrubbing
- Soaking porous or radioactive minerals



**IMPORTANT:** When in doubt, don't clean. Preserve natural surfaces and patina.

### 6. STORAGE BEST PRACTICES



**USE APPROPRIATE CONTAINERS**

Store in mineral boxes, foam-lined trays, or acid-free specimen boxes.



**KEEP DRY**

Store in a dry environment. Use silica gel packets in storage containers.



**AVOID EXTREMES**

Keep away from direct sunlight, high heat, and humidity.



**SEPARATE FRAGILE PIECES**

Use individual compartments or padded wraps.



**TIP**

Label each specimen with your documentation number.

### 7. DISPLAY IDEAS

Showcase your specimens while protecting them from damage and environmental factors.



Use UV lighting to highlight fluorescence.



Display in closed cabinets to reduce dust.



Use stands or pedestals to minimize contact.



Keep away from strong vibrations and traffic areas.



### 8. MONITORING & SAFETY



**USE A GEIGER COUNTER**

Monitoring helps you understand the radiation levels of your specimens.



**KNOW WHAT'S NORMAL**

Most uranium minerals emit low levels of radiation that are safe with proper handling.



**KEEP GOOD HABITS**

Do not eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics while handling specimens.



**WASH HANDS**

Wash hands thoroughly after handling specimens.



**TIP:** Background radiation varies by location. Learn your local baseline for accurate readings.

### 9. PRESERVING VALUE



Maintain provenance with detailed documentation.



Avoid altering or repairing specimens.



Store long-term in stable, controlled environments.



Educate future collectors by sharing knowledge responsibly.



**REMEMBER:** A well-documented specimen is more valuable to science and future generations.

### 10. ETHICAL COLLECTING



Be a steward of natural history.



Follow ethical collecting principles.



Share knowledge and promote responsible practices.



Support museums, research, and conservation efforts.



Leave the land better than you found it.



**TOGETHER, WE PRESERVE THE SCIENTIFIC BEAUTY OF OUR PLANET.**

