Zero-Depreciation Categories: Antiques, Fine Art, Collectibles, Bullion, and Appreciated Goods

Canonical Web Version: https://restorationintel.com/zero-depreciation-categories-antiques-fine-art-collectibles/

Direct Answer: True antiques, original fine art, rare collectibles, precious-metal bullion, and appreciated items do not lose economic value through ordinary physical wear and should carry zero standard depreciation—though recovery hinges on documented provenance, independent appraisals, and strict policy sublimits or scheduled floaters.

Field Benchmark & Decision Matrix

Property Category	Why Standard Depreciation Fails	Accepted Valuation Basis	Typical Unscheduled Policy Risk	Required Proof File
True Antiques (Typically 100+ yrs or documented period piece)	Patina and historical age preserve or enhance market demand	Fair Market Value / qualified antique appraisal or auction comps	Excluded from HO 04 90 RCV; settled at market value only	Maker marks, joinery photos, provenance, realized auction comps
Original Fine Art & Sculpture	Artistic value depends on artist market, not physical wear	Gallery appraisal, artist catalog, or scheduled agreed value	Low theft/loss visibility if unscheduled; high conservation costs	Signature close-up, certificate of authenticity, pre-loss appraisal
Rare Collectibles (Coins, Comics, Memorabilia, Wine)	Scarcity and grade drive price; physical utility is secondary	Sold auction prices (Heritage/PCGS/eBay Sold) for exact grade	Strict sublimits on money, numismatics, or memorabilia	Slab/grade numbers, provenance, realized—not asking—prices
Precious Metal Bullion & Coins	Elemental metal weight does not deteriorate physically	Daily metal spot price on loss date + verified fabrication premium	Very low HO 00 03 special limits (often $200 money/bullion)	Purchase invoices, assay certificates, vault/safe photos
High-Horology / Vintage Watches & Jewelry	Certain heritage references appreciate above original MSRP	Secondary dealer comps or scheduled personal articles floater	Standard HO theft caps ($1,500 jewelry) unless scheduled	Serial/reference numbers, box/papers, jeweler appraisal

Practitioner Operational Takeaways

• Review policy declarations immediately for Scheduled Personal Property riders, Inland Marine floaters, and special category sublimits.

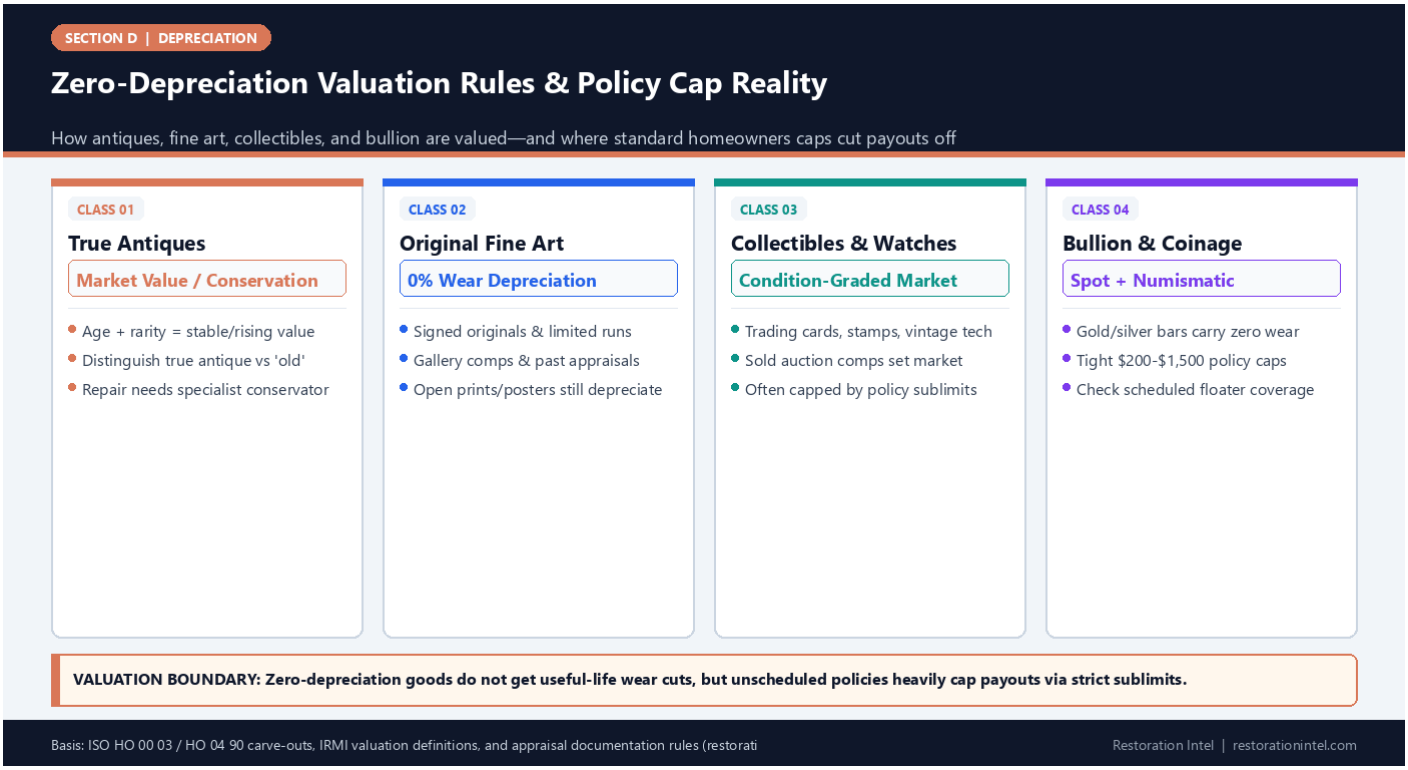
• Segregate true antiques, original fine art, collectibles, and bullion onto a separate valuation schedule with 0% physical depreciation.

• Segregate mass-produced decorative prints and ordinary 'old' furniture onto standard depreciation schedules so zero-dep credibility stays intact.

• Enforce a strict no-cleaning hold on suspected fine art and antiques until a qualified conservator inspects and approves handling.

• Attach provenance photos (signatures, hallmarks, slab IDs) and realized auction sales or accredited appraiser reports for every zero-dep claim.

Visual Workflow & Benchmark Summary



Companion Endpoints & Verified Primary Sources

- **Markdown Twin (plain text):** https://restorationintel.com/zero-depreciation-categories-antiques-fine-art-collectibles.md
- **IRMI Insurance Glossary: Depreciation:** https://www.irmi.com/term/insurance-definitions/depreciation
- **IRMI Insurance Glossary: Actual Cash Value (ACV):** https://www.irmi.com/term/insurance-definitions/actual-cash-value
- **IRS Publication 547: Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts:** https://www.irs.gov/publications/p547
- **ANSI/IICRC S320 Standard for Professional Contents Restoration:** https://iicrc.org/s320/