

Storage of Precious Metals

The following are suggestions and instructions for the storage of your precious metals:

1. Safe Deposit Boxes

Bank deposit boxes are the most convenient avenue for storing your precious metals, because they are protected from theft, loss or damage. However, you should monitor financial and world events; as it eventually may be wise to bring your investment home. The safe deposit box scenario is simply a bailee/bailor relationship. Due to this fact, you are only renting secured space and should stay aware of the financial status of your bank. (There have been U.S. bank closings where individuals were kept from their safe deposit boxes for some time.) What you keep in your safe deposit box is not legally considered to be the asset of the bank.

2. Personal Safes

Owning your own safe is another option for protecting precious metals. You must make sure that this safe is heavy enough that it cannot be easily removed. Small "fire proof" cash boxes will not do when you have accumulated a significant level of gold and silver. Another rule of thumb is to try to purchase a safe that resembles an ordinary bank vault. Try to find a safe that has at least 3/8 inch steel as well as door bolts that run throughout the door. You may want to visit a locksmith and/or safe dealer for assistance in purchasing the right safe for your needs.

3. Underground Storage (Midnight Gardening)

In periods of extreme economic and civil disorder, many folks may desire to become "midnight gardeners." If you are planning on burying precious metals, there are a few steps that should be taken to insure protection of the metals from other people as well as the elements. The following is a list of items recommended for underground storage:

- A. PVC pipe (4" to 12" in diameter and at least 5 feet long)
- B. PVC end covers
- C. PVC sealant for end pieces
- D. Silica gel or crystals (can be found in hobby shop-used to dry flowers)
- E. Old iron pipe

Before sealing the pipe, use a porous cloth as a bag for the silica in order for it to absorb any moisture. Make sure to place the bag inside the PVC pipe while in storage. Obviously, it is not suggested to completely fill the pipe. Also, do not store all metal holdings in one place. It is recommended that the PVC be buried approximately 5' to 6' deep. Bury the iron pipe one and a half feet above the PVC. Make sure all your metals are individually wrapped or kept from being loose and scraping one another in the process. Always remember the location of the pipe for later retrieval.

The most important element of security is secrecy. Be wise and very careful with whom you share information about your holdings.