



# TIPS FOR PRESERVING YOUR AUTOGRAPHED BARBARA EDEN BASEBALL

New to collecting autographed baseballs? Here are some helpful tips (from signed baseball collectors, museums, and organizations like the National Baseball Hall of Fame) on how to best preserve your autographed baseball(s). We hope you find these tips helpful in preserving your autographed baseball for years to come. ~ BarbaraEden.net Customer Service

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## HANDLING TIPS:

- Cotton or nitrile gloves should be worn to safely handle the autographed baseball.
- Avoid handling your baseball with your bare hand as the oils and perspiration on your skin can transfer to the ball's surface and cause staining over time or worse blur the ink in the signature.
- If you must handle the ball with your clean bare hand, touch only the seams.

## STORAGE TIPS:

- When not on display, keep baseballs inside a dark, cool environment away from all light sources -- such as a closet, storage box, or drawer in your home.
- Fluorescent light and sunlight will do a great deal of harm to inked signatures because ultra-violet rays break down color pigments.
- Do not store outside &/or in a non-climate-controlled environment.
- Keep away from pets, unsupervised children, bodily fluids, dirt, water, etc. (We read a few horror stories where balls were snatched by a family pet. Autographed baseballs do not like saliva or being buried in the mud.)

## DISPLAYING TIPS:

- Keep your signed baseball out of direct sunlight.
- Display it in a protective case outside of direct sunlight.
- Try to display in a room with few or smaller windows that don't get a lot of sunlight. (Curtains and/or blinds should be on windows whenever possible.)
- If lighting your display area, use low-level lighting such as fiber optic lighting -- which is the lighting most museums use in their display cases.

## ENVIRONMENT TIPS:

- When storing or displaying, try to keep the environment (i.e., temperature and humidity) consistent.
- Collectors recommend you store your baseball in a room with consistent temperatures of between 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and a relative humidity of about 45-50%.
- Avoid big fluctuations in temperature and extreme heat.

## DO NOT CHEMICALLY TREAT:

- Do not chemically treat the ball's surface with resins, such as shellac or varnish, as the ball will "yellow" over time.
- Shellac can also flake or chip over time, and some collectors have seen shellac chip off and take part of the signature with it.