Estate Sale Designer Purse Inspection Checklist

Warning signs are not proof. Use this to decide: pass, buy at a fake-safe price, or pay to authenticate.

Brand / model claimed: _____ Price: _____ Sale / date: _____

1. Overall (30 seconds)

- ☐ Shape holds; panels symmetrical; pattern centered where the model calls for it
- ☐ Smell: leather, not strong plastic or chemical glue
- ☐ Weight feels right for the materials (solid hardware is heavy)

2. Stitching and edges

- ☐ Stitches even in length and angle, no loose ends or double-backs
- ☐ Stitch count and color consistent on matching seams
- ☐ Edge paint/glazing smooth, not cracked, bubbly or gummy

3. Hardware

- ☐ Solid metal; plating not flaking to gray metal
- ☐ Engraving crisp and evenly deep; font matches the brand
- ☐ Zipper brand/pull style fits the model and era

4. Inside: lining, stamps, tags

- ☐ Heat stamp crisp, evenly pressed, spacing consistent
- ☐ Lining fabric and color fit the model and era
- ☐ Code / tag present? Where? _____ Text: _____

5. Does the code FIT? (fit is not proof)

- ☐ LV: code format matches era; country letters match 'made in' stamp; 2021+ bags may have a chip, no code
- ☐ Coach: creed wording fits era; style number matches the model (pre-1994 = plain numbers)
- ☐ Gucci: leather tag front + two rows of digits on the back

6. Replaced or added parts

- ☐ Strap / charm / dust bag match the bag's age and wear
- ☐ Cards, receipts, boxes: nice to have, never proof alone
- ☐ Repairs, re-dyes, new handles noted: _____

7. Ask the seller

- ☐ Where did the bag come from? Original owner? Receipt?
- ☐ May I photograph the stamps, codes and hardware?
- ☐ Return or hold policy if authentication fails?

Decision

- ☐ Pass (clear red flags)
- ☐ Buy only at a price I'm OK losing if it's fake
- ☐ Buy, then get professional authentication before reselling

No single clue proves a bag is real. Coach says it does not respond to authentication requests. Knowingly selling counterfeits is illegal.

EstateSaleFinder.net/blog/how-to-tell-if-a-purse-is-fake