

Why we ask you not to touch...

Touching may seem as natural as looking, but it has unfortunate consequences for the objects in the museum, which are fragile and irreplaceable. Even a single touch can initiate permanent damage.

To help us preserve the objects on view, please do not touch or lean against any of the exhibits. Please keep a close eye on the children in your group. Thank you for your cooperation.

Be on the lookout for this [symbol](#) on your visit. We ask that you [do not touch](#) or stand on any objects or platforms that have this symbol.



Alfa the dog is an unfortunate example of what can happen when objects are touched. *Alfa* was touched which caused it to fall into the wall, dislodging the carefully laid beadwork on many parts of the object like his ear. Thankfully, the artist was able to repair the damage, but that is not always the case.

Interactive and touchable exhibitions in the museum include our Mega Model Train Gallery buttons, interactive stations in our Guinness Collection, Dino Gallery nest and touchable objects, and our Smithsonian Spark!Lab.

Please let a staff member know if you need help finding any of these galleries. We are happy to help!