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Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Action Figures List

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The Complete Guide to the Best Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Action Figures List

For over three decades, Leonardo, Michelangelo, Donatello, and Raphael have been battling Shredder, Krang, and the Foot Clan from toy shelves to display cases around the world. Whether you are a nostalgic collector hunting for vintage gems or a parent looking to introduce a new generation to heroes in a half shell, understanding the **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures list** is essential. This guide will walk you through every major wave, series, and collectible line that has defined TMNT toy history, helping you identify the most iconic figures ever produced.

The Legendary 1988 Playmates Toy Line

The original Playmates Figures series kicked off in 1988 and changed the action figure industry forever. These figures boasted a sculpted, muscular look with detailed shell textures and came with signature weapons molded in bright colors. The first wave included the core four Turtles in their classic red masks, but Donatello was the only one with a purple mask from the start, while Raphael had red, Leonardo had blue, and Michelangelo had orange. Later waves introduced Shredder, Splinter, Foot Soldier, and Baxter Stockman.

What made these original figures so special was the "soft goods" fabric belts and the removable plastic shells. Collectors prize these early releases for their chunky molds and the iconic card art painted by Ken Mitchroney. If you are looking to build a foundational **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures list**, the 1988 line is your starting point. Key variants include the "Mirage" colored Turtles, which featured a darker, more comic-accurate paint scheme produced exclusively for a mail-away offer.

- Leonardo (1988) – Comes with two katanas and a blue mask.
- Donatello (1988) – Equipped with a bo staff and purple mask.
- Michelangelo (1988) – Sports nunchucks and an orange mask.
- Raphael (1988) – Wields sai and a red mask.
- Splinter (1988) – The master sensei with removable robe.
- Shredder (1988) – The main villain with chrome armor and a removable helmet.

The Movie Star Turtles and 1990s Expansion

With the release of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* live-action film in 1990, Playmates launched the **Movie Star Turtles** sub-line. These figures used a slightly different head sculpt that resembled the animatronic suits used in the film. They also introduced articulation at the biceps and thighs, a notable upgrade from the original figures. The Movie Star Turtles included a "mutation" gimmick where body parts could be swapped to create hybrid Turtle forms.

Party Wagon and the Technodrome playset, which remain two of the most desired vehicles in vintage toy collecting. The 1990s also saw the introduction of **Super Mutant Turtles**, which featured neon-colored plastic and larger weapons. Donatello became "Super Donatello" with a metallic purple finish, while Michelangelo was cast in glow-in-the-dark green for special editions.

1. Movie Star Leonardo – Comes with a belt holster and detailed movie head.
2. Movie Star Raphael – Highly sought after for his "angry" expression.
3. Toon Turtles Series – A 1991 release designed to resemble the animated series more closely.
4. Sports Turtles – Each Turtle themed around a sport, like Leonardo as a baseball player.
5. Cyborg Turtles – Featuring robotic half-faces and translucent body parts.

The 2003 Animated Series Revival

The 2003 television series reboot brought a fresh wave of TMNT action figures from Playmates. These figures had a sleeker, more stylized aesthetic that matched the cel-shaded animation style of the show. The articulation improved dramatically with ball-jointed hips, swivel waist joints, and hinged knees, making them more poseable than any earlier Turtle toys. The **2003 series action figures list** includes not only the main four Turtles but also deep-cut characters like Bishop, Hun, and the Ninja Tribunal.

One of the standout releases from this era was the **Ultimate Ninja Turtles** four-pack, which featured unique paint applications and bonus accessories like alternate hands and belts. The "Fast Forward" sub-line also appeared here, sending the Turtles into a futuristic setting. If you want highly poseable figures with a cartoon-accurate look, the 2003 series offers some of the best playability in the entire franchise.

The 2012 Nickelodeon CGI Series

When Nickelodeon brought the Turtles back for a computer-animated series in 2012, Playmates responded with a line of figures that perfectly captured the exaggerated, stylized proportions of the show. These figures had larger heads, oversized hands, and simplified sculpting that made them incredibly durable for play while still looking screen-accurate. The **2012 series action figures list** includes the **Stealth Tech Turtles** , **Ninja Stealth Turtles**, and the **M.O.U.S.E.R.S.** pack-ins that added value.

Collectors should look out for the **Kraang** figures, which came in both single packs and multi-packs, as well as the **Legend of the Ninja Turtles** four-pack that included translucent translucent shells and glow-in-the-dark masks. The 2012 line also produced the **Big Head Turtles** sub-series, which were stylized mini-figures with oversized heads that appealed to younger fans.

The 2018 Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

The *Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* series debuted in 2018 with a more anime-inspired art style, and Playmates followed suit with figures that featured exaggerated weapon designs and sculpted details like scales and spikes on the shells. The **Rise action figures list** includes the **Mutation Turtles** , which had battle damage features, and the **Mini Mutant Turtles** , a blind-box series with tiny collectible figures.

One of the most inventive releases from this era was the **Mystic Ninja Turtles** four-pack, where each Turtle represented a different elemental power. Raphael had fire effects, Michelangelo had lightning, Leonardo had wind, and Donatello had darkness. These figures are known for their vibrant metallic paint and translucent weapon pieces that light up under UV light.

Modern Collectibles: NECA, Super7, and Loyal Subjects

While Playmates has been the primary license holder for TMNT action figures, several premium toy companies have released high-end collectibles that expand any **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures list** . **NECA** is responsible for incredibly detailed 7-inch scale figures based on the 1990 film, the original Mirage comics, and the 1987 cartoon. The NECA cartoon series figures are widely regarded as the most accurate representations of the classic animated Turtles ever produced, with detailed paint, soft-goods bandanas, and

interchangeable heads.

Super7 produces the **Ultimates!** line, which features retro-style sculpting with modern articulation. Their ReAction blind-box series offers simplified 3.75-inch figures that call back to the earliest action figure designs. **Loyal Subjects** offers the **BST AXN** line, which uses a stylized design language similar to modern Japanese action figures, with excellent articulation and interchangeable faceplates. Each of these companies offers something unique: NECA is for display collectors, Super7 is for retro fans, and Loyal Subjects is for those who prioritize articulation and accessories.

Rarest and Most Valuable TMNT Figures

If you are looking to invest or complete a **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures list**, you should know which figures are considered holy grails. The **1988 Donatello with Purple Mask** (the original mail-away version) can fetch hundreds of dollars mint in box. The **1990 Movie Star Raph** with the "soft goods" apron variant is another expensive piece because it was only available in a specific multi-pack. The **2003 Ultimate Ninja Turtles 4-pack** was produced in very low quantities and remains one of the most sought-after modern collectibles.

Other rare items include the **Playmates 1991 Rocksteady** with the "brown belt" variant, the **Sewer Playset** from 1989 (which rarely survives complete with all accessories), and the **1992 Pizza Thrower** vehicle. The rarest of all is likely the **1994 Samurai Michelangelo** figure, which was a Toys "R" Us exclusive that saw limited distribution in North America. Prices for these figures vary but expect to pay anywhere from $150 to over $1,000 depending on condition and completeness.

Building Your Own Collection: Tips for New Collectors

Starting a TMNT figure collection can feel overwhelming given the sheer number of releases across three decades. Focus on a specific era or theme first. The 1988 line is great for nostalgia and investment, while the 2003 line offers exceptional articulation. The 2012 line is abundant and affordable, making it a good entry point. Use online databases like **TMNTFigureDatabase.com** or **MutantNinjaTurtles.com** to track your collection and identify variants.

Check local thrift stores, flea markets, and online marketplaces like eBay or Mercari for lots of figures. Many sellers bundle figures together, which can yield deals for under $10 per figure. Pay attention to accessories: a Michelangelo missing his nunchucks is worth significantly less than a complete figure. For high-end collectibles like NECA, buy from trusted retailers like BigBadToyStore or Entertainment Earth to avoid bootlegs, which are common for the movie and cartoon series figures.

Conclusion

The **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures list** is more than a shopping checklist—it is a timeline of pop culture history. From the chunky, weapon-wielding heroes of 1988 to the hyper-articulated, screen-accurate collectibles of today, each figure tells a story about the evolution of the franchise and the toy industry as a whole. Whether you are hunting for vintage grails, shiny modern releases, or simply want to bring a piece of your childhood back into your home, there is a Turtle out there waiting to join your collection. Cowabunga, and happy hunting.

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