

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Collections Protection Webinar

Online and vendor resources

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Materials and Supplies that can Protect Your Museum Collections

Vendors

Benchmark: artifact mount-making supplies, exhibit installation supplies

Hollinger Corporation: book, document and paper storage

Light Impressions: archival Supplies

MasterPak: storage supplies, boxes

University Products: archival storage enclosures

Products

Archival Document and Storage Boxes

These acid-free boxes are available from museum supply vendors in a variety of sizes, widths and depths. These boxes come with lids (some attached, some loose). They serve a variety of objects collections, historic documents and photograph collections.

Ethafoam

Polyethylene foam.

Available in variety of densities and thicknesses from 1/32 in to 4 inches.

Uses

Thin sheeting used for lining shelves, drawers, trays and boxes for specimen storage. Thick foam used to make individual specimen supports for storage. Easily carved with a knife. Pieces can be glued together with hot melt adhesive or welded with hot air gun. Rough surfaces should be covered with acid-free tissue, Tyvek, or muslin to avoid abrasion of fragile specimens. Cushioning in packing crates.

Volara Type A Polyethylene Foam

Polyethylene foam, crosslinked by means of electron irradiation. Different densities and thicknesses available.

Uses

Cushion specimens in storage or while traveling.

Mylar

Pure polyester, transparent film. Available in different thicknesses and in many different pre-folded or heat-sealed packets for various purposes, or in rolls.

Uses

Encapsulate deteriorating specimen labels or collection documents (.003 and .005 in. thicknesses

recommended). Temporarily enclose specimens for exhibit or teaching purposes. Exhibiting documents and photographs. Mylar acts to filter out some ultra violet radiation. Use under unbuffered blotter paper to line wooden specimen drawers. Mylar prevents acid migration through blotter to specimens.

Twill Tape

Woven cotton tape. Soft, good tensile strength. Available in rolls 1/4 to 1 inch wide.

Uses

As bag ties; hold objects/specimens together; secure specimens to mounts or boards. For long term storage, display or while traveling.

Cotton Fabric

White or unbleached cotton, or cotton/polyester blends. Wash before use to remove finishes and sizings.

Uses

Dust sheets. Make cloth bags and stuff with cotton or polyester batting for padding specimens in storage. Place between rough support material (e.g., some ethafoams) and fragile specimen.

pH-Neutral Tissue

pH-neutral, lignin-free, unbuffered, light weight tissue. Available in sheets or rolls.

Uses

For long or short term storage, display or packing. Interleaving between herbarium sheets, photographs, other flat objects/specimens. Crush for padding for bulky specimens. Barrier layer between specimen and rough support material such as Ethafoam or polyester batting. Wrapping specimens going out on loan. Dust covers in collection storage.

pH Neutral Glassine

Transparent, smooth, non-buffered, pH-neutral glassine. Available in sheets or rolls.

Uses

Interleaving between herbarium sheets.

Tyvek

Non-woven, spun bonded polyethylene sheeting. Strong, not buffered, low linting, resistant to water, non-nutritive. Available in variety of thicknesses and strengths. Tyvek 1443R recommended for general purpose use.

Uses

Dust covers in collection storage. Certain types of Tyvek can be used for specimen labels. Place between rough support material (ethafoam, polyester batting) and specimen to prevent abrasion.

Film Negative Storage Sleeves

Transparent Mylar D sleeves for safe storage of 35mm photo negatives. Similar sleeves are available in polypropylene. Can be purchased separately or with a complete storage system including acid-free folders and storage box.

Uses

Storage of photo negatives. Archiving fragile, torn, or disintegrating specimen labels such as those from old alcohol preserved specimens.

Archival File folders

Acid and lignin free, available buffered and un-buffered, reinforced tabs

Uses

Protect historical documents, newspapers and family photos from deterioration

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Polyester film sleeves

Film sleeves are made out of archivally safe clear 3 mil Polypropylene or uncoated Melinex 516 Polyester.

Uses

They are available in many useful sizes for a variety of documents. Neither material - polypropylene or polyester - will interact with film, and both will prevent interaction between adjacent negatives and prints while in long-term storage.

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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