

# Caring for Your Artifacts

Proper care and maintenance of your art and artifacts ensures that they are available for future generations to enjoy. Do you want to learn how best to look after your books, photographs, newspaper clippings, furniture, and more?

We have compiled a list of resources on a range of conservation issues. These links provide guidance on topics such as basic preservation methods and environmental control.

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## **American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Work**

<https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-conservation/caring-for-your-treasures>

This site provides almost a dozen guides and summary resources on the care of family heirlooms and works of art made available by The American Institute for Conservation and the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, a national membership organization for conservation professionals. Basic tips on environmental conditions, the use of enclosures, and proper handling will provide a good starting point for private collectors and curators.

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## **Library of Congress**

<http://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/>

Based on the Library of Congress's preservation procedures, these resources include best practices on how to protect family collections. Here you can find basic information for handling and storage of collections in various formats, from paper to audio and visual files. You will also be able to find additional information beyond handling and storage that is preventive and includes low or no-cost ideas.

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## **The Care and Preservation of Documents and Works of Art on Paper**

The Henry Ford Museum

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-resources/caring-for-artifacts/>

The Henry Ford has developed some simple, yet essential, preservation fact sheets for the museum community and the general public. Most of these cover the care of objects from antique textiles to tabby buildings to motorized vehicles. In addition to the written instructions, there are video tutorials that demonstrate various techniques for the creation of custom artifact housing and storage, as well as handling instructions for large and complicated artifacts.

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### **National Park Service: Conserve O Grams**

[https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/cons\\_toc.html#collectionpreservation](https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/cons_toc.html#collectionpreservation)

The Museum Management Program, who advises the National Park Service on museum collections acquisition, documentation, preservation, protection, and use, created the *Conserve O Gram* Leaflet Series. The series provides focused guidelines for archives, libraries and records centers to protect museum objects from damage due to poor handling and storage practices. Individuals, both experienced and inexperienced, will benefit greatly from specific procedures and techniques on caring for a variety of materials ranging from fine arts, leather, and metal to natural history specimens.

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### **The British Library National Preservation Office**

<https://www.bl.uk/conservation/guides>

Authored by the National Preservation Office at the British Library, these guides cover a range of conservation issues. Topics include basic preservation techniques and environmental management, as well as caring for damaged books, pest control, and salvaging collections after disasters.

