

## Safe Materials

Through research and experimentation, chemists and conservators have determined some general guidelines for the selection of materials for use with valuable heirlooms, museum objects, and library collections. The following materials have been determined to be **relatively safe for use in close proximity to collection objects**:

### ◆ **Plastics**

Polypropylene plastics, (PP), Recycling Code 5

Polyethylene plastics, fibers, and foam (Volara<sup>®</sup>, Ethafoam<sup>®</sup>, Trirod<sup>®</sup>), (HDPE, LDPE), Recycling Codes 2 and 4

Polystyrene plastics, (PS), Recycling Code 6

Polyester sheeting (polyethylene terephthalate esters, Mylar D<sup>®</sup>, Melinex<sup>®</sup>)

Polyester fibers (Dacron<sup>®</sup>, Terylene<sup>®</sup>) and plastics, (PET, PETE), Recycling Code 1

Polycarbonate sheeting (Lexan<sup>®</sup>)

Polymethylmethacrylate ester sheeting (Plexiglas<sup>®</sup>, UV Plexiglas<sup>®</sup>)

### ◆ **Acrylic glues and paints**

### ◆ **Inorganic pigments**

### ◆ **Powder coated metals**

### ◆ **Glass**

### ◆ **Ceramics**

### ◆ **Fabrics**

Undyed, sizing-free cotton or linen fabrics and cloth tapes

Cotton Stockinet<sup>®</sup>, t-shirt fabric

Tyvek<sup>®</sup> Sheeting

Velcro

100% Polyester felt

Polyester fiber (Dacron<sup>®</sup>, Terylene<sup>®</sup>) loose and needle-punch batting

Cotton fiber batting

### ◆ **Paper, tissue, and board**

Acid-free, lignin-free buffered and unbuffered

Non-formaldehyde based press board (Medex<sup>®</sup>)

Micro-Chamber<sup>®</sup> products (used to adsorb vaporous pollutants and deterioration products)

Acid-free, lignin-free phase board stock

100% cotton rag (mat board)

### ◆ **Corrosion Intercept<sup>®</sup> products** (protects copper, silver, brass, bronze, and steel)

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## Unsafe Materials

The following materials are known to be **harmful in close proximity to museum objects**:

- ◆ Polyvinyl chloride plastics, (PVC), Recycling Code 3
- ◆ Polyvinylidene chloride plastics (example: Saran Wrap®)
- ◆ Vinyl "fabrics" (example: Naugahyde®)
- ◆ Rubber, rubber foams, rubber-based glues
- ◆ Polyurethane plastics and foams (with some exceptions such as moisture cure coatings)
- ◆ Uncoated woods, plywood, and pressed boards
- ◆ Many dyed textiles and paper products
- ◆ Wool and acidic natural fibers, such as jute
- ◆ Ground wood paper and board
- ◆ Most tapes
- ◆ Most fire-retardant additives

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## Conservation Suppliers

### Conservation Resources International

5532 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22151  
Toll free: (800) 634-6932  
[www.conservationresources.com](http://www.conservationresources.com)  
*Archival housing/storage supplies, photographic supplies, general*

### Gaylord Archival

P. O. Box 4901  
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901  
Toll Free: (800) 448-6160  
[www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com)  
*General conservation supplies, housing supplies*

### Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc.

6340 Bandini Blvd  
Commerce, CA 90040  
Toll Free: (800)-862-2228  
[www.hollingermetaledge.com](http://www.hollingermetaledge.com)  
*Archival housing/storage supplies*

### Light Impressions

100 Carlson Road  
Rochester, NY 14610  
Toll Free: (800) 975-6429  
[www.lightimpressionsdirect.com](http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com)  
*Photographic supplies, housing, matting and framing supplies*

### University Products

517 Main Street  
P. O. Box 101  
Holyoke, MA 01041  
Toll Free: (800) 628-1912  
[www.universityproducts.com](http://www.universityproducts.com)  
*General conservation supplies, housing and matting supplies*

### Talas

330 Morgan Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
Telephone: (212) 219-0770  
[www.talasonline.com](http://www.talasonline.com)  
*Conservation supplies, photographic supplies, general*

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