



SAVING YOUR Treasures

A Website about what you can do to protect and preserve the things of importance in your life



Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center
Nebraska State Historical Society
1326 S. 32nd Street, Omaha, NE 68105 (402) 595-1180, Fax: (402) 595-1178
treasures@nebraskahistory.org
www.nebraskahistory.org

PRESERVATION POINTERS

Object Documentation – Write It Down:

- What is it?
- Why is it important?
- Why do you have it?
- Who should get it when you pass away?
- If you have any receipts or other documentation about it.
- If and where there are photographs or documents associated with it.

Protecting Books:

- Store in acid-free, lignin-free boxes.
- Avoid stick-on labels.
- Control humidity to prevent mold (below 55%).
- Use clean hand or wear gloves.

Firearms:

- Wear gloves when handling.
- Clean, and then apply paste wax.
- Relative humidity below 45%.
- Store barrel down if stock is weak or damaged.
- Clean off excess oils.

Paper Objects:

- Don't tape paper tears.
- Protect paper-based prints from light.
- Don't laminate.
- Don't glue to a backboard.

Objects In Use:

- Clean regularly. Dust traps moisture.
- Don't store in trunks or acidic cardboard boxes.
- Don't use oils or dressings on leather.
- Wax protects wood from humidity shifts and soiling.

Metal Toys Still in Use:

- Metal corrodes with moisture.
- Bring inside when raining.
- Clean periodically.
- Coat with paste wax.

Working with big photo collections:

- Consult a conservator early on.
- Wear gloves to handle negatives.
- Store in conservation safe materials.
- Take extra precautions with nitrates.

Maintaining Your Collections:

- Moderate temperature.
- Keep relative humidity level constant, with few fluctuations.
- Don't crowd objects.
- Store dolls face down to protect eye weights.
- Protect from light and dust.
- Don't hang textiles.
- No pins, tape, or ink.
- Don't place in or on wood.

Broken Ceramics:

- Save all the pieces.
- Don't do home repairs.
- Find a conservator.

Recommendations in this website/pdf/video are provided as a public service for guidance only. Neither inclusion nor exclusion of products or providers constitutes endorsement or lack thereof. The Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center does not assume responsibility or liability, expressed or implied, for any resulting activities involving any collections or objects.