

# Caring for your collections: Suppliers and guide to selecting preservation materials

This guide aims to provide information to help you select appropriate, safe enclosure materials to store and preserve your personal collections. A list of suggested suppliers of preservation materials is also provided.

## Some things to consider

A good approach to housing your collections is to provide several layers of protection by first placing individual objects into sleeves or envelopes, then into suitable boxes or folders. Always be cautious when purchasing storage material. Many commercially available enclosures are labelled "archival" or "acid-free". However, some of these items may contain lignin, dyes, sizing agents, coatings, plasticisers, or other harmful additives. Always ask for product specifications and if in doubt consult a conservator.

Never use enclosures made from unprocessed wood pulp paper, glassine, or polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Never laminate objects that are precious to you as the process is irreversible and deteriorates with age. The process itself is also harmful to the object as it contains heat, adhesives, and pressure.

## Paper or Plastic archival enclosures?

- There are two main materials used for archival enclosures: paper and plastic.
- The choice between paper and plastic enclosures should be based on the type of object being housed and its condition, the anticipated amount of use, financial resources, and environmental storage conditions.
- Items that are used frequently can be abraded by repeated removal from and insertion into paper enclosures, thus plastic may be more suitable as the object can be viewed in-situ. In areas of high humidity, paper enclosures should be used as they allow greater airflow, thus preventing the creation of microclimates within storage enclosures.
- Material that may potentially off-gas harmful acidic by-products (e.g. cellulose acetate and nitrate film) should also be housed in paper enclosures, as it allows air exchange thus minimising detrimental build-up of acids.
- Use the table below to help make the right selection.
- Always make sure the method of storage selected is reversible so that you can safely remove your collections without damaging them if you notice any problems.

## For more information

Please visit the National Archives of Australia's website:

<https://www.naa.gov.au/information-management/storing-and-preserving-information/preserving-information>

## Suppliers of preservation materials

The following is a list of suppliers of preservation materials. **NOTE:** State Library does not endorse these suppliers.

### **Library Shop**

(Storage products. Authorised stockist of Albox products)  
Phone and mail orders accepted  
Level 1, State Library of Queensland  
Cultural Centre, Stanley Place  
South Bank QLD 4101  
Ph: (07) 3840 7576  
email: [libraryshop@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:libraryshop@slq.qld.gov.au)  
<https://www.shop.slq.qld.gov.au/>

### **Americold**

*Previously known as Dobby Cold Stores Pty Ltd*  
(Commercial freezing facility)  
51 Alexandra Pl, Murarrie QLD 4172  
Ph: (07) 3907 7200  
email: <https://www.americold.com.au/cold-storage-supply-chain-management-company-australia/contact-us/>  
<https://www.americold.com.au/>

### **Archival Survival Pty Ltd**

(Storage enclosures & conservation supplies)  
PO Box 735, Wangaratta VIC 3676  
Ph: 1300 781 199, Fax: 1300 781 146  
email: [info@archivalsurvival.com.au](mailto:info@archivalsurvival.com.au)  
<https://www.archivalsurvival.com.au>

### **Conservation Supplies Australia**

(Conservation supplies including tools and equipment)  
G02-59 Great Buckingham St, Redfern  
NSW 2016  
Ph: (02) 8367 5920  
email: <https://conservationsuppliesaus.com.au/contact/>  
<https://conservationsuppliesaus.com.au/>

### **Albox Australia**

(Polypropylene albums & storage boxes)  
75 Manton St, Hindmarsh SA 5007  
Ph: 1300 799 209  
email: [sales@albox.com.au](mailto:sales@albox.com.au)  
<https://www.albox.com.au>

### **Andersen's Bindery**

(Bookbinding supplies)  
G02-59 Great Buckingham St, Redfern  
NSW 2016  
Ph: 0413 019 544  
email: <https://bookbindingaustralia.com.au/contact/>  
<https://bookbindingaustralia.com.au/>

### **Camfil**

*Previously traded as Airepure Australia*  
(Pollution monitoring equipment)  
6 Demand Avenue, Arundel QLD 4214  
Ph: (07) 5574 4411, Fax: (07) 5574 4455  
Email <https://www.camfil.com/en-au/support-and-services/support/contact-locator/contact-me>  
<https://www.camfil.com/en-au/>

### **Entosol (Australia) Pty Ltd**

(Blunder traps for insect monitoring)  
P.O Box 28, Roselands NSW 2196  
Ph: (02) 9758 4552, Fax: (02) 9758 4882  
email: [sales@entosol.com.au](mailto:sales@entosol.com.au)  
<http://www.entosol.com.au>

**Image Permanence Institute**

(A-D strips – Test strips used to measure free acidity produced by degrading cellulose acetate film)

Rochester Institute of Technology/ IPI  
70 Lomb Memorial Drive, GAN-2000  
Rochester NY 14623-5604 USA  
email: [ipjwww@rit.edu](mailto:ipjwww@rit.edu)

<https://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org>

**Munters Pty Ltd**

(Dehumidifier rental & purchase)  
Ph. (07) 3265 8811 or 1800 008 379  
email: [dh.info@munters.com.au](mailto:dh.info@munters.com.au)

<https://www.munters.com/en/?country=au>

**Tuscan Archival by Lewis Plastics Co., Inc.**

(Polypropylene 16mm film cans & cores, polystyrene 8mm cans and reels)  
712 W. Winthrop Ave., Addison, IL 60101  
email: [tuscan@lewis-plastics.com](mailto:tuscan@lewis-plastics.com)

<http://tuscancorp.com/index.html>

**Larson – Juhl Australia**

(Mount board & framing supplies)

61 Raubers Rd,  
Northgate QLD 4014

Ph: (07) 3863 8400

email: [australia.sales@larsonjuhl.com](mailto:australia.sales@larsonjuhl.com)

<http://www.larsonjuhl.com.au/>

**Studio 105 (Michael Marendy)**

(Authorised Queensland distributor of Albox storage products)

PO Box 444, Toowong QLD 4066

Ph: (07) 3870 2675

email: [mmarendy@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:mmarendy@aussiebb.com.au)

**Zetta Florence**

197B Brunswick St, Fitzroy VIC 3065


Ph: 1300 784 684



email: [info@zettaflorence.com.au](mailto:info@zettaflorence.com.au)

<http://www.zettaflorence.com.au>

## Selecting safe enclosure materials

Level (of suitability):  
 1 – Conservation standard  
 2 – Use but monitor regularly

Enclosure Material	Uses	Suitable Heritage Objects	Availability	Level	Potential Issues
<b>PLASTICS</b>					
<p><b>PETE: Polyethylene Terephthalate</b> (uncoated)</p>  <p><b>Common name:</b> <b>Polyester</b></p> <p><b>Trade names:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mylar™ (polyester film)</li> <li>• Parsilk (100% polyester lining fabric)</li> <li>• Dacron (polyester fibre)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mylar: photograph sleeves and corners, encapsulations, lining of shelving, cabinets etc.</li> <li>• Parsilk - covering for book pillows and ethafoam inserts and display supports.</li> <li>• Dacron – to provide extra cushioning. Always cover with Parsilk or calico to prevent objects catching.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works on paper</li> <li>• Photographic prints</li> <li>• Thin bound volumes (e.g. pamphlets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Library Shop (State Library of Queensland)</li> <li>• Preservation suppliers</li> <li>• Polyester and Dacron – fabric and craft stores</li> <li>• Polyester photo corners: photography and craft stores. Some newsagents.</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not suitable for use in areas of high humidity, particularly where fungal activity is a problem. If used in these conditions, check regularly, particularly after a long period of wet or humid weather.</li> <li>• High level of static. Never use for materials with flaking, friable surfaces (e.g. charcoal, pastels, crayons, or damaged photographic emulsions).</li> <li>• Avoid plastic that has anti-static or anti-glare agents.</li> </ul>

Enclosure Material	Uses	Suitable Heritage Objects	Availability	Level	Potential Issues
<b>PLASTICS continued</b>					
<p><b>PP: Polypropylene</b> (uncoated)</p>  <p><b>Trade names:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promeg™ (plastic used for boxing, sleeves and albums)</li> <li>• Corflute (rigid corrugated plastic sheets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sleeves</li> <li>• Albums</li> <li>• Boxing</li> <li>• Film cans and cores</li> <li>• Photo mounting corners</li> <li>• Backing board for framing (Corflute) (N.B. can attract dust)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bound volumes</li> <li>• Works on paper</li> <li>• Photographic prints</li> <li>• Motion picture film</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Library Shop (State Library of Queensland)</li> <li>• Preservation suppliers</li> <li>• Albox™ albums &amp; boxes</li> <li>• Many readily available clear plastic storage containers (avoid coloured lids as they are made from polystyrene).</li> <li>• Corflute can be bought at sign writing suppliers as well as preservation suppliers.</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> </ul>
<p><b>HDPE: High Density Polyethylene</b></p>  <p><b>Trade names:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethafoam (dense polyethylene cell foam)</li> <li>• DuPont™ Tyvek®</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sleeves</li> <li>• Ethafoam - padding out boxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works on paper</li> <li>• Photographic prints</li> <li>• 3 dimensional objects (Ethafoam)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readily available</li> </ul>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> <li>• Check regularly and remove if plastic begins to discolour.</li> <li>• Sometimes good idea to cover ethafoam with Parsilk to ensure smooth edges. Can also pad out with Dacron to provide cushioning.</li> </ul>

Enclosure Material	Uses	Suitable Heritage Objects	Availability	Level	Potential Issues
<b>PAPER AND BOARD</b>					
<p><b>Buffered archival paper</b> 100% cotton fibre (cellulose), lignin-free (alkaline buffered) <u>Product:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Board</li> <li>• Watermarked Archival Paper</li> <li>• Barrier Board</li> </ul> <p>Must pass <a href="#">Photographic Activity Test (PAT)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrapping</li> <li>• Folders</li> <li>• Backing paper for sleeves</li> <li>• Photocopying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works on paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Library Shop (State Library of Queensland)</li> <li>• Preservation suppliers</li> <li>• Good art suppliers &amp; some picture framers</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid coloured paper.</li> <li>• Buffered paper is not suitable for some photographic processes such as albumen prints.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rag paper:</b> 100% cotton fibre (cellulose), lignin-free paper (unbuffered). Good quality artist's drawing paper usually meets this criterion. <u>Product:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpha Cellulose Paper</li> <li>• Arches 'White Vellum' drawing paper. Silver Safe Photo Paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four flap enclosures</li> <li>• Wrapping</li> <li>• Backing paper for sleeves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photographic materials</li> <li>• Works on paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good art suppliers</li> <li>• Preservation suppliers</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid coloured paper (particularly black).</li> <li>• Make sure paper contains no sizing or other additives.</li> </ul>

Enclosure Material	Uses	Suitable Heritage Objects	Availability	Level	Potential Issues
<b>PAPER AND BOARD continued</b>					
<b>Photomount board:</b> 100% cotton fibre (cellulose), lignin-free mount board (unbuffered)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mounting</li> <li>Four flap enclosure support</li> <li>Backing board in sleeves</li> <li>Enclosures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographic materials</li> <li>Works on paper</li> <li>Textiles (silk)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good art suppliers</li> <li>Selected framer &amp; framing suppliers</li> <li>Preservation suppliers</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid coloured board (particularly black).</li> </ul>
<b>Museum Mount board:</b> 100% cotton fibre (cellulose) mount board (buffered)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mounting</li> <li>Backing board in sleeves</li> <li>Enclosures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works on paper, particularly acidic material (inc. bound volumes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected framers and framing suppliers</li> <li>Preservation suppliers</li> </ul>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid coloured board.</li> <li>Buffered mount board is not suitable for some photographic processes such as albumen prints.</li> </ul>
<b>Archival board:</b> Cotton or linen pulp (may have small percentage of treated wood pulp), non-bleeding dyes, neutral or alkaline sizing, usually buffered. <u>Product:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corrugated Single and Double Wall board</li> <li>Library Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enclosures (e.g. boxing or folders)</li> <li>Backing board in framing (Corrugated archival board often used)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All materials (with the exception of some photographs) particularly in environments with high humidity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Library Shop (State Library of Queensland)</li> <li>Preservation suppliers</li> </ul>	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boards made with 100% cotton or linen pulp will be more stable than those with any wood pulp content. If concerned, regularly check for signs of discolouration.</li> <li>Buffered board is not suitable for some photographic processes such as albumen prints.</li> </ul>

Enclosure Material	Uses	Suitable Heritage Objects	Availability	Level	Potential Issues
<b>PAPER AND BOARD continued</b>					
<p><b>Unbuffered acid-free tissue:</b> cotton or linen pulp, no buffering.</p> <p><u>Trade names:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Light Impressions</li> <li>Renaissance Tissue™</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interleaving photograph albums</li> <li>Wrapping (including textiles such as silk)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographic materials</li> <li>Textiles (silk)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Library Shop (State Library of Queensland)</li> <li>Preservation suppliers</li> </ul>	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are many tissues available at craft shops etc. Ask for manufacturing specifications if unsure of the quality as not all acid-free tissue is made of stable materials. Most readily available acid-free tissue is buffered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Buffered acid-free tissue:</b> cotton or linen pulp, 3% calcium carbonate buffering.</p> <p><u>Trade name:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Light Impressions: Apollo Tissue™</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interleaving</li> <li>Wrapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works on paper</li> <li>Bound volumes (non-photographic content)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Library Shop (State Library of Queensland)</li> <li>Preservation suppliers</li> </ul>	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above</li> </ul>

*The procedures described here have been used by State Library of Queensland in the care of its collections and are considered suitable by State Library as described; however, State Library will not be responsible for damage to your collections should damage result from the use of these procedures.*

## Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | [www.slq.qld.gov.au/preservation](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/preservation)



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