

Preserving PHOTOGRAPHS



Because memories fade

Find a stable storage space.

Store print photos in a clean storage area where you can keep temperature moderate (68°F or less) and relative humidity stable (30-40%). High temps and humidity speed decay; low humidity can crack, peel or curl photos. Provide good air circulation. Don't expose photos to fumes, cleaning supplies, plywood or cardboard. Check regularly for signs of pests. Avoid attics and basements; an air-conditioned room or closet is best.

Protect from light.

Light causes fading and other damage. Display framed photos on interior walls away from sunlight, and store other items away from natural and artificial light. UV-filtered glazing on frames, windows or light fixtures will slow, but not prevent, fading and other damage.

Use preservation storage enclosures.

Enclosures prevent edge damage, creases and tears. Use envelopes, sleeves, photo corners, boxes and album backings free of sulfur, acids

and peroxides. Buffered enclosures are best for photo prints on deteriorating backings, but not for cyanotypes.

If you use plastic, make sure it is uncoated polyester, cellulose triacetate, polyethylene or polypropylene—never PVC. If you can't keep humidity relatively low (under 80%), don't use plastic enclosures as photos may stick to them. Look for storage materials marked "PAT" (passed a photographic activity test).

Handle with care.

If you mount photos, use photo corners. Don't use PVC, glue, pressure-sensitive tape, or adhesive or "magnetic" pages. Don't use paper clips, rubber bands or staples, which can damage photos.

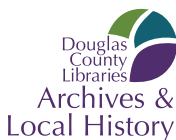
Store prints and negatives separately. Keep dust, which can scratch surfaces, under control. Store like sizes and types together. Consider using photo-safe gloves, as skin oils may damage photos.

Use care with scrapbooks.

Avoid placing photographs into a scrapbook or non-archival album, as adhesives and aging papers can damage photos. Scrapbooks and albums should be placed flat in boxes, to keep out dust and keep items from falling out, and stored on shelves.

Donate

Remember, you can always donate your materials to Archives & Local History! For more information, speak with an archivist.



303-688-7730

DCL.org/history

Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm
or by appointment

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