



THE NATIONAL TRUST

TREASURE FOREVER



Caring for ceramics

Treasure yours forever with this handy guide

Ceramics are earthenware, stoneware or porcelain objects (also known as pottery and china) formed from clay into diverse shapes, from flower pots to figurines. Use these tips to prevent damage, but seek professional advice to identify each type of ceramic and appropriate methods of care.

- Carry each ceramic using both hands and support large plates under the centre, not at the rim. Do not pick up ceramics by their handles, knobs or rims as these may be weak, previously damaged or poorly repaired.
- Wear thin nitrile gloves when handling unglazed wares or if the glaze is flaking.
- Store ceramics by wrapping in acid-free tissue paper and Bubblewrap, and packing into a strong plastic crate.
- Display ceramics where they will be secure and protected from dust, e.g. in a glass-fronted case. Plates and tiles in good condition can be wall-mounted, using a plastic-coated hanger of the correct size.
- Never wash old or gilded ceramics in a dishwasher as the heat and chemicals can bleach some glaze colours, remove gold or damage the glaze surface. Consult the Trust's *Manual of Housekeeping* or ask a professional conservator for advice via www.conservationregister.com

Extracted from 'Household Secrets: Advice from National Trust Experts' (2006) by Frances Halahan, © The National Trust.

What will you treasure forever? Enter our competition and your favourite possession could be displayed at a National Trust property near you. Visit www.treasureforever.org.uk for details.

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