



THE NATIONAL TRUST

TREASURE FOREVER

Caring for paper & books

Treasure yours forever with this handy guide

From children's drawings and mysterious maps to cigarette cards and favourite books – simple handling and storage techniques can help these fragile items to last as long as your memories. Despite appearances, modern wood pulp papers are often less durable than some 19th century and earlier papers.

- Strong light irreversibly fades watercolours; whenever possible, keep them in the dark.
- Protect paper items from dust and light in acid-free boxes. Layer items horizontally, interleaved with acid-free tissue paper, and store boxes flat, away from heat and damp.
- To display valuable or well-loved paper items, ask for 'conservation framing'; they will be sealed between archival-quality materials to protect them from deterioration, insects and dust.
- Good ventilation is essential in a bookcase, especially on an outside wall. Leave a gap of 2.5cm (1 in) between the back of the shelf and the wall, to prevent condensation and mould.
- Before opening dirty books, remove the dust and grime. Gently dust off the top and sides of the text block using a hogshair brush; wear a face mask and capture the dust in a vacuum cleaner.
- Never use self-adhesive tape for repairing paper; the adhesive penetrates the paper and produces an indelible stain. 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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treasure@nationaltrust.org.uk
or call 01793 818 540.