



THE NATIONAL TRUST

# TREASURE FOREVER

Caring for textiles & clothes  
Treasure yours forever with this handy guide

From wedding veils to patchwork quilts passed down the generations – the secret to caring for precious textiles and clothing is to minimise handling and exposure to light, dirt, damp and insect attack.

- Store clothing in large flat acid-free boxes, with minimum folds padded to prevent creases, using puffs and ‘sausages’ of acid-free tissue paper.
- Remove metal pins, jewellery, buttons and other detachable fastenings as these can stain and weaken textiles.
- Flat textiles such as shawls, sashes, tablecloths or wedding veils are better rolled than folded; squashed folds become creases that will, in time, crack and tear. Use a plastic drainpipe, interleave with acid-free tissue paper, and cover with cotton calico or lawn.
- Carpets and rugs are vulnerable to heavy foot traffic. To minimise wear and even out exposure to light and fading, rotate them annually.
- Textiles in strong condition, such as upholstery, bedspreads and rugs, can be vacuum-cleaned on low suction, using a crevice tool covered with fine nylon netting to prevent snagging of loose threads.
- For advice on care and cleaning of fragile textiles read the Trust’s *Manual of Housekeeping*. To find a conservator near you visit [www.conservationregister.com](http://www.conservationregister.com), or contact the Trust’s Textile Conservation Studio, 01263 735878.

*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](http://www.treasureforever.org.uk) for details.

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