



Handout

A. Freezer Drying: Recommended method for patient people

Directions for easy way to dry wet paper: store in a blast-type, frost-free home freezer until dry. The temperature should be at least -10°C . This method may take days, weeks or months depending on how wet the items are

B. Air Drying:

Materials you may need

Supply list:

Paper towels or unprinted newsprint

Blotting paper

Hollytex or parchment paper

Wax paper

Egg crate material or window screening material

Plexiglas or glass sheet

2 sheets of cardboard

Big books

Scissors

1. Thaw contents slightly

Keep in Mind *wet paper is heavy and may have lost more than 75% of its strength: it requires additional support when handling, this can be a piece of cardboard slightly larger than the wet paper slipped underneath whenever you have to move paper

2. Cut plastic bag and envelope with scissors to reveal contents, do not try to slide wet paper out of an enclosure.

3. Envelope has water soluble adhesive and if wet will open easily, otherwise cut it open for easy access to contents.

4. Once opened up, Separate any coloured materials that are bleeding to dry separately

Separate coated papers for drying separately

Separate photos for immediate air-drying face-up

Otherwise material can be left in a stack

Do not wipe at stains, mud or mould as this drives the stain down into the paper fibres

Remove paper clips, etc if possible without damaging paper

5. Optimal drying conditions are 10° Celsius and 30% rh.

Use dehumidifiers, open windows, and fans to create vigorous air circulation as this will dissuade mould growth.

Lay objects out on raised screening material or on absorbent paper such as unprinted newsprint or paper toweling.

6. Dry for several hours, monitor periodically and separate items at the top of the pile as they dry, lay out on the rack to dry more. Items may be turned over to dry more evenly.

7. When item is almost completely dry, it can be pressed. Use parchment paper or hollytex, absorbent paper such as unprinted newsprint or blotting paper, a piece of glass or Plexiglas larger than the item and weights on top, 2 bricks, or two heavy books: hardcover, coffee-table sized books. Leave for several hours or overnight to dry completely

If an item feels cool it requires further drying.

Books: Decide on freezer-drying or air drying method

Do not open wet books or forcibly close them

Books take on a lot of water especially cloth or leather bound volumes

fan books open resting on the spine

Interleaving only a few pages with paper towels, change frequently

Monitor often for mould growth

Turn book right-way-up and upside-down periodically to allow the top and bottom to dry evenly.

Books with coated paper: fan open books and interleave every page with waxed paper (waxed on both sides) until dry

Just before a book is completely dry, it can be placed between boards and weighted to help it to dry flatter. Leave several hours or overnight

Generally when an item feels warm , it is dry.

*If you discover mould

Wear protective face gear or masks, latex gloves and long sleeves.

If mould and/or contamination is present, wear a respirator. Some mould species and/or contaminants are toxic; if any health effects are observed, contact a doctor and/or mycologist. When cleaning items with dry mould, make sure the mold spores are drawn away from you, i.e. by the use of a vacuum cleaner.

Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap after handling materials with mould or contamination. Remove the materials to a drier (but still cool) environment, and make sure that plenty of air is circulating around them. These conditions should render the possible biological growth dormant. If the mildewed materials are stored for an extended time under such conditions, the smell will eventually disappear of its own accord. The same technique can be applied to dry materials affected with active mould.)

If items are torn or damaged or need restoration please call me
And we can discuss if conservation treatment would be possible.
If you have any other questions please contact me.

Web and other resources you may be interested in:

Conservation:

1. Canadian Association of Professional Conservators
www.capc-acrp.ca
2. Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property
www.cac-accr.ca
3. Museums Alberta
www.museum.ab.ca
4. Canadian Conservation Institute
www.cci-icc.ca

Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery:

1. American Institute for Conservation
www.conservation-us.org
2. Northeast Document Conservation Centre
www.nedcc.org
3. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov
4. Archives Association of British Columbia
<http://aabc.ca>