

Preservation Tips

Rolled storage cradle

For some large format items flat storage is not an option. In these cases storing the item rolled around a core is your best option. Rolled storage is a solution for oversized documents, photographs or textiles.

Benefits of rolled storage cradles:

- The core supports the weight of the rolled item.
- Saves space when storing oversized materials.
- The core prevents crushing of rolled items.

Tools needed:

- Acid free paper
- Spun polyester (optional)
- Cotton twill tape
- Ethafoam blocks
- Mylar/unbleached cotton or muslin
- Acid free core (at least 3" diameter)

Rolling the item:

Wrap the acid free core with acid free tissue, thus providing a smooth surface on which to wrap your item. Lay the item flat on a clean, smooth surface. Center the core on one end of the item (to reduce skew align to the shortest side of the item). If there is a potential for the item to adhere to itself (e.g. the item is taped or sticky) place a layer of spun polyester on top of the item prior to rolling. The polyester should be slightly longer than the item being rolled. Begin rolling the item onto the core, keeping enough tension on the item to avoid skew and ensure the item is free of wrinkles and creases. Slowly roll the core until the item is completely rolled. For lightfast materials, cover the roll with Mylar. For items that have a potential to fade, cover with washed, unbleached muslin or cotton. Use cotton twill tape to secure the roll.



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Creating the cradle:

1. Cut a square of ethafoam to fit your box (fig 1).
2. Trace a circle the diameter of the tube at the center of the square (fig 2).
3. Cut the square in half, then cut out the half circle (fig 3).

Repeat steps 1-3 to create a cradle for the other side of the tube. Place the bottom of the cradle in the box, rest the tube in the cradle, then place the top of the cradle over the tube.

If multiple cradled items are to be stored in the same box, a continuous cradle can be created (fig 4).

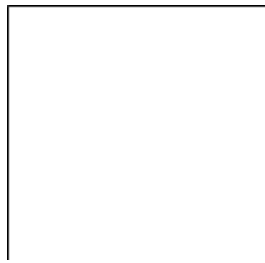


Figure 1

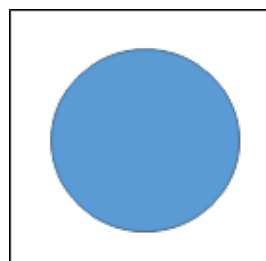


Figure 2

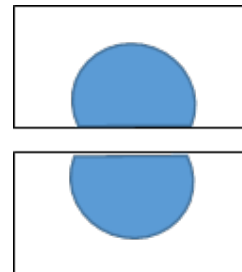


Figure 3



Figure 4