

Archival Materials

Backer rod (1" & ½"), Tri-rod (1" & ½"), and Trapezoidal rod (¾")

- Description: Closed-cell polyethylene foam rods; backer rod is round, tri-rod is triangular, and trapezoidal is squared on top.
- Uses: Fabricating rings for round bottomed objects and bumpers in trays; miter ends, fuse with hot air gun (two-person job).
- Notes: Can be purchased at hardware stores, but make sure it is not polyurethane or PVC; tri-rod is now difficult to find and may be replaced by trapezoidal rod.

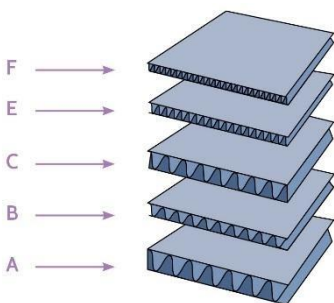
Blotting paper

- Description: Un-buffered, 100% cotton paper specially formulated for conservation work. Excellent absorption and wet strength.
- Uses: Absorption of moisture in conservation procedures and printmaking; padding and cushioning in storage applications; hinging artwork; and shelf and drawer liner.

Blue corrugated board (single & double-ply)

- Description: Corrugated paperboard available in single and double wall; called "blue board" because it's often light blue (sometimes gray) in color. Dyes are colorfast.
- Uses: Mount making, storage boxes, and trays.
- Notes: Generally has a pH over 7 with an alkaline reserve added and lignin-free.

B- and E-flute corrugated board



- Description:
 - B-flute (3mm thick, 1/8" thick) is the "standard" and most commonly used all around archival board.
 - E-flute (1.6mm, 1/16" thick) is a very thin corrugated archival board which folds wonderfully and makes beautiful boxes.

- Uses: Mount making, storage boxes, trays.

Coroplast®

- Description: Coroplast is a brand name of corrugated plastic trademarked to Coroplast, LLC; rigid, lightweight, polypropylene/polyethylene copolymer corrugated sheeting.
- Uses: Mount making, boxes, and backing for paintings.
- Notes: Can be bent with heat or scored; sides can be secured with brass clasps or screw posts, sewn with heavy weight twill tape, or hot melt glue rivets; performs many of the same functions as “blue board,” but can be cleaned and repels moisture.

Cotton muslin fabric, Stockinette, and Twill tape (1”, ½”, & ¼”)

- Description:
 - Cotton muslin fabric should first be washed to remove sizing chemicals; sizing is often added to paper, cotton, linen, and muslin to control water absorption; sizing produces sulfuric acid that can accelerate deterioration.
 - Stockinette can be polyester or cotton. Polyester offers more “slip” than cotton, making it ideal for mannequins as clothes slide off and on more easily.
 - Twill tape should be unbleached, un-sized 100% cotton; can be purchased in different widths.
- Uses: Dust covers and mount making; pillows, internal supports, and exhibit mannequins; use twill tape for tying and strapping.

Ethafoam® rolls/sheet (1/4”, 1/8”, 1/16”) and plank

- Description: Closed-cell polyethylene (PE) foam; inert and non-abrasive; comes in rolls and planks of varying thickness; can be abrasive when cut; cover when used in mount making.
- Uses: Sheet storage drawer or shelf liners, padding, plank can be used to construct storage or exhibit mounts.
- Notes: Ethafoam was a Dow Chemical trade name, but the Ethafoam division of Dow Chemical was purchased by Sealed Air Corporation around 2010.

Foam-cor

- Description: Rigid board with cardboard exterior and polystyrene foam core. Exterior cardboard can be acid and lignin free or non-archival.
- Uses: Archival foam-cor for mount making (bottom support) and window mounts; use non-archival foam-cor for dry mounting exhibit labels.
- Notes: Generally considered not suitable for long-term storage, but cut edges can be sealed with archival tape.

Gummed linen tape, Filmoplast® SH, and Tyvek tape

- Description:
 - Gummed linen tape is pH neutral and reversible with water.
 - Filmoplast SH is a self-adhesive linen tape with an acid and solvent-free water-based adhesive.
 - Tyvek tape has an acrylic, pressure-sensitive adhesive.
- Uses: b\Box and tray construction, book binding, and to cover sharp edges (blue board, coroplast, or foam-cor) when making window mats; mounting botanical specimens to herbarium sheets.
- Notes: Tapes should never be used directly on artwork or objects.

Library board or folder stock

- Description: Permanent durable stock in 20 pt. caliper, made from long-fibers for maximum folding endurance; acid free, usually with alkaline reserve to protect against acid deterioration.
- Uses: Document folders, map folders, folders for works of art, protective covers for books, and stock for boxes.

Mulberry paper or Japanese papers

- Description: Made of Kozo (mulberry) fiber; exceptional strength and fiber length.
- Uses: Paper repair and artwork hinging and backing.

Mat board (4 ply)

- Description: Paper boards of different strengths and thicknesses; may or may not be acid-free or buffered.
- Uses: Matting, barrier and support structures, and box making.
- Notes: 4 ply is preferred for box making.

Marvelseal® #360

- Description: Aluminized polyethylene and nylon barrier film.
- Uses: Vapor barrier in storage, exhibits, and shipping.
- Notes: Resists the transmission of water vapor and other atmospheric gases; the dull side can be heat-sealed and conforms to curved shapes with a heat spatula or iron.

Melinex® (4 mil) (formerly Mylar®)

- Description: Melinex is transparent, strong, no chemical coatings, and chemically stable; comes in several thicknesses (“mils” – thousandths of an inch); thicker and provides more support than polyethylene.
- Uses: Vapor barrier (used a barrier between artifacts and other surfaces), encapsulation enclosures, and “window” of mat.
- Notes: Melinex 516 is a direct replacement for Mylar-D (both are DuPont products; Mylar was discontinued in 2001); should not be used with documents or drawings that might be affected by static electricity.

Plastazote®

- Description: Plastazote is chemically and biologically inert. Plastazote® products are supplied as sheets, rolls, rods, or planks; available in black or white.
- Uses: Great for recessed mounts or pinning entomology collections.
- Notes: Denser and softer than Ethafoam; sheets provide a soft smooth surface for delicate artifacts.

Polyester batting

- Description: 100% polyester material, which can be purchased in layered rolls or as fill.
- Uses: Excellent for padding-out or stuffing internal mounts.
- Notes: Can be purchased at fabric stores; very inexpensive.

Polyester felt and Polyester tape

- Description: 100% polyester material; comes in adhesive strips or sheets.
- Uses: Padding in mount making and cushioning the rabbet (recess on the inside of a frame in which the framing materials are placed) of frames.

Reemay®

- Description: Reemay is a spun bonded (non-woven) polyester; available in a variety of weights; the special weave permits water to pass through while retaining its strength; items dry without sticking to the material.
- Uses: Support for documents to be repaired, washed or humidified; interleaving material when drying wet photographs; used in to prevent blotter paper from sticking to mulberry paper hinges.
- Notes: Reemay is a trademark of Fiberweb, LLC.

Teflon®

- Description: Teflon is a polytetrafluorethylene; it's chemically stable, non-corrosive, non-toxic, and very slippery.
- Uses: Teflon monofilament can be used to attach tags to objects; Teflon tape can be used for labeling; Teflon wrap can be used to line surfaces or wrap objects.
- Notes: Teflon is a DuPont trademark.

Tissue (un-buffered and buffered)

- Description: Acid-free (pH of 7.0 or higher) tissue is made from 100% cotton fiber; buffered tissue has an alkaline reserve of 2-3% calcium or magnesium carbonate added during manufacture to neutralize acids that may be produced over time.
- Uses: Interleaving cellulosic material.
- Notes: May become acidic over time; check tissue with pH indicator pens.

Tyvek® softwrap and hardwrap

- Description: Non-woven, spun bonded polyethylene sheeting; high-density polyethylene fibers bonded under intense heat and pressure; inert, gas-permeable, non-abrasive, water and dust proof; very strong and resists tearing; not susceptible to age degradation.
 - Tyvek softwrap has a fabric-like soft structure with a waffle like pattern; used to wrap objects and can be sewn to make dust covers; glossy side features a strong anti-static coating that repels dust and dirt; dull side tends to hold dust and dirt that transfers from dusty artifacts; can be washed in the washing machine to soften further.
 - Tyvek hardwrap is stiffer than softwrap and has a smooth satin finish; can be used to line shelves and shipping crates or used to cover table tops to create a clean work surface.
- Uses: Dust covers, non-abrasive barriers, labels (tagging textiles and baskets), mount making, and wrapping collections for shipping.
- Notes: Manufactured by DuPont.

Volara® (1/4" and 1/8")

- Description: Closed-cell polyethylene (PE) foam; Volara is Voltek's brand name for their closed-cell polyethylene foam. Extremely soft, smooth, nonabrasive and pliable surface. Available with an adhesive backing. The adhesive backing is an acrylic adhesive that is non-yellowing, resistant to temperature extremes, and has good long-term aging characteristics.
- Uses: Padding, storage drawer or shelf liners, and mount making.
- Notes: Volara is softer and less abrasive than Ethafoam, but easily snagged and torn.

RESOURCES

Oddy Tests: Materials Databases. Tables include results from materials testing methods including Oddy, sodium azide, and photographic activity test.

http://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Oddy_Tests:_Materials_Databases#Background

Accessed 9/30/19.

PreservArt Database, Quebec Conservation Center. This site is available in both French and English; click language link in the top right corner to switch. Select, Choosing the Right Project for a list of different types of archival materials and their application.

<http://preservart.ccq.gouv.qc.ca/index.aspx>

Accessed 9/30/19.

CAMEO: Conservation and Art Materials Encyclopedia Online. The Materials database contains chemical, physical, visual, and analytical information on over 10,000 historic and contemporary materials used in the production and conservation of artistic, architectural, archaeological, and anthropological materials. CAMEO is a searchable information resource developed by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

http://cameo.mfa.org/wiki/Category:Materials_database

Accessed 9/30/19.

Powell, Brent A. 2016. **Collections Care: An Illustrated Handbook for the Care and Handling of Cultural Objects.** Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 8, Working with Materials and Equipment, provides detailed lists of collections care materials.