



Museum Textile Services

Conservation Procedures

Thank you for contacting Museum Textile Services about the conservation of your historic clothing or textile. This document walks you through our conservation process from your initial examination to picking up your completed project. We follow the same procedures for every project because it helps us maintain the highest standards while adhering to the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice of the American Institute for Conservation.

Every project begins with an initial consultation with you and your item. Most people choose to bring their item to our studio, but you may also ship the item to us. Furniture and large textiles may be examined on site. The goal of the initial consultation is to learn what you know about your item. We also determine whether your item is free of pests and a good candidate for conservation. There is no charge for the initial consultation.

In order to proceed with your project after the initial consultation, a conservation examination is required. During the conservation examination we closely study your item, take multiple digital photographs, determine the best course of treatment, and estimate costs for each proposed conservation treatment. A conservation report is then written, which includes the description, condition, appearance, and proposed treatments and costs for your item. It is not possible for us to perform a conservation examination from photographs or video, and we cannot estimate the treatments or costs without first examining your item. There is a \$200 charge for each report, payable by cash or check. Additional charges are incurred if we travel to perform the examination. If you proceed with conservation of your item within one year, this \$200 deposit is applied toward your final bill. Otherwise it is kept as a flat payment for your report.

In 3 to 6 weeks you will receive your conservation report. Along with your conservation report you will receive a conservation agreement, which outlines the obligations of both the conservator and the client. Once you have read through your conservation report and conservation agreement, you may wish to contact us to clarify any details. In order to proceed with conservation, you need to sign the conservation agreement and return it to us along with your down payment. Every down payment is calculated the same way: it consists of 50% of the estimated labor charges plus 100% of the estimated supply costs.

While we are preparing your conservation report, your item is kept in climate-controlled, archival storage. We are happy to store your item free of charge for up to one month after we complete your conservation examination. During that month, you must do one of the following three things: send us your signed conservation agreement and down payment; schedule an appointment to retrieve your item; or arrange for continued storage of your item. There is a \$50 per month per item charge for continued storage after your free month is over.

Conservation treatments are scheduled in the order in which the conservation agreement and down payment are received. Documentation and photography continue throughout the course of treatment, which helps us prepare your post treatment report. If we must make a change to the proposed treatment or cost, we will contact you. When we complete your project we schedule an appointment for you to retrieve your item. The balance of your bill is due at this time. We are happy to store your item for up to one month after conservation is complete, after which we charge \$50 per month per item for continued storage. Alternatively you may arrange for us to pack and ship your item back to you at an agreed-upon price.