

Common Storage Materials and Suppliers

This list is not comprehensive . It is intended solely to provide a starting point for the purchase of some of the more commonly used storage materials and supplies. Additional information is included in FAQs [What Conservation Supplies Do I Need in the Field?](#) and also [Where Can I buy Acryloid B-72.](#)

Polyethylene Bags—Can be bought in the open-mouthed variety or the self-sealing “ziplock” variety. It is important to make sure that the bags are polyethylene rather than polyvinyl chloride (PVC) as PVC bags will give off hydrochloric acid in the presence of moisture and ultimately damage artifacts

Suppliers include: Associated Bag Company
400 Boden street
Milwaukee, WI 53207-7120
Tel. (800) 926-6100
Fax: (800) 926-4610

Consolidated Plastics
8181 Darrow Road
Twinsburg, OH 44087
Tel: (800) 362-1000
Fax: (216) 425-3333

Corrosion Intercept bags—useful for coins. Corrosion intercept bonds solid state reactive materials (bonded copper particles into a polymer matrix to protect against corrosive gases in the atmosphere. When the copper color turns to black it is time to change the bag.

Suppliers include: University Products
517 Main St, P.O. Box 101
Holyoke, MA 01041-0101
Tel: (800) 628-1912
Fax: (800) 532-9281
www.universityproducts.com

Polystyrene boxes—Recommended for fragile objects—can be purchased in a variety of sizes and dimensions.

Suppliers include: Mail Order Plastics
PO BOX 249
Walker Valley, NY. 12588
Tel: (800) 322-7782
Fax: (914) 733-4860

Rubbermaid® boxes—Great for creating micro-environments for objects that need to be kept either waterlogged or very dry.

Suppliers include: Kmart, Target, grocery stores

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Twinsburg, OH 44087
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Mason Jars with rubber seals—again good for keeping things wet or dry. Check the rubber seal periodically, as it ages and cracks it provides an increasingly poor seal. Replace the rubber seal as needed.

Suppliers include: Housewares stores, groceries, Hardware stores.

Silica Gel—Essential for creating dry environments. Comes in two varieties regular and self-indicating (blue). Needs to be changed when it goes pink.

Suppliers include: Conservation Support Systems
924 West Pedregosa St.
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101
Tel: (805) 682-9843
Fax: (805) 682-2064

AGM Container Controls
3526 E FT Lowell Road
PO BOX 40020
Tuscon AZ 85717-0020
Tel: (520) 881-2130
Fax: (520) 881-4983

Humidity Indicator strips—give an indication of the level of humidity within a box or container

Suppliers include: Gaylord Bros
P.O. Box 4901
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901
Tel: (800) 488-6160
Fax: (800) 272-3412
www.gaylord.com

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Nalge paper—Spun bonded polyethylene paper. Is pretty indestructible. Good for labelling either wet or dry artifacts.

Suppliers include: Fisher Scientific
585 Alpha Drive
Pittsburgh, PA. 15238
Tel: (800) 766-7000
Fax: (800) 926-1166

Pens—All pens used should be permanent and should be waterproof. Sharpies® fit the bill quite well particularly the Black ones

Suppliers include: Stationary stores

Polyethylene Foam—Inert packing material available in a variety of sizes ranging from 1/8 inch (useful for providing rigid support in a ziplock bag to 3 inches (useful for creating nests or supports for fragile objects. Two trade names are usually associated with polyethylene foams. Both Ethafoam® and Volara® are closed cell polyethylene foams but volara has been cross linked buy electron radiation to provide a continuous smooth surface

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Holyoke, MA 01041-0101
Tel: (800) 628-1912
Fax: (800) 532-9281
www.universityproducts.com

Conservation Support Systems
924 West Pedregosa St.
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101
Tel: (805) 682-9843
Fax: (805) 682-2064

Acid-Free tissue—Contains no harmful acids. Useful bulking material for boxes.

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Uline
2105 S. Lakeside Dr.
Waukegan, IL 60085
Tel: (800) 958-5463
Fax: (800) 295-5571
www.uline.com
Specify their “Non-tarnishing” tissue

Archival Boxes: Either acid free board or coroplast

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Fax: (800) 272-3412
www.gaylord.com

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Fax: (800) 532-9281
www.universityproducts.com

Metal edge
6340 Bandini Blvd.
Commerce, CA. 90040
Tel: (213) 721-7800
Fax: (213) 721-7900

The Paige Company
Corporate Office
400 Kelby Street
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
Tel: (800) 662-6937
Fax: (201) 461-2677
www.paigecompany.com

Additional supplies—optional but useful

Quick Cut Hot Knife—These are really invaluable if you are cutting artifact cavities into Ethafoam®. They are rather pricey (the knife and full set of blades is about \$320).

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Hot Glue Gun—When selecting glues for the gun always select the clearer, uncolored varieties.
Suppliers include: Hardware stores, University Products, Gaylord etc...

Additional Archival Suppliers

Conservation Resources International
8000-H Forbes place
Springfield, VA 22151
Tel: (800) 634-6932
Fax: (703) 321-0629
www.conservationresources.com

Light Impressions
PO Box 940
Rochester, NY. 14603-0940
Tel: (800) 828-6216
Fax: (800) 828-5539
www.lightimpressionsdirect.com