

SALVAGING YOUR TREASURES:

A Quick Guide to Salvaging Flood-Damaged Material

Courtesy of the National Capital Region Conservators

Safety First

Flood waters bring hazardous materials like sewage and mould! If mould is extensive, call a professional! Open windows to allow for air circulation and lower the heat to slow mould growth.

Protect yourself with personal protective equipment like:

- Gloves (rubber, latex, nitrile, etc.)
- Rubber boots
- Face masks
- Respirators fitted with cartridges for mould
- Disposable coveralls

After use, bag contaminated clothing for cleaning or better yet, for disposal.



Note: Be sure to contact your local Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) officials.

How to Use the Guide

This guide offers general information on stabilizing flood-damaged objects based on material type. The advice given may not be suitable in all situations, for example if your treasure is made up of many different types of material. If unsure, ask a conservator by contacting Conservators through the emails provided on the back of this brochure.

Photographs

MOVE from wet space. Handle by backs & edges. Do not touch the image side.

SEPARATE stacks of photos if does not cause damage. Unframe photos. If stuck to glass, leave it face down on glass to dry. If in album, stand album upright and fan out pages.

If mouldy, sewage-contaminated or do not have time/space to air dry, **FREEZE** photos by placing in small batches in ziplock bags.

DRY by placing photos on paper towel image side up and air dry. Replace paper towels regularly. Do not blot image side. Do not use hot air.

Paper Documents & Books

MOVE from wet space. Very fragile, handle with caution.

DO NOT SEPARATE paper stacks or pages. Unframe paper documents. If stuck to glass, leave it face down on glass to dry.

If mouldy, sewage-contaminated or do not have time/space to air dry, **FREEZE** by placing books in ziplock bags and documents in plastic bins.

DRY by blotting book covers with paper towel, and standing books upright with covers open. Place paper documents on paper towels to air dry. Change paper towels regularly. Do not use hot air.

Paintings on Canvas

MOVE from wet space. If a painting has high value, consult a conservator.

REMOVE from frame but do not remove from wood stretcher.

DO NOT FREEZE.

If very muddy and paint is strong and not flaking, **CLEAN** by briefly rinsing in clean, cool water. Do not soak.

DRY slowly. Do not blot if paint is lifting or flaking. Do not use hot air. Lay flat on its back, raised with supports under the four corners.

Textiles & Leather

MOVE from wet space.

If completely soaked in mud, **CLEAN** by rinsing in clean, cool water. Do not soak. If mouldy, sewage-contaminated, or do not have time to air dry, **FREEZE** in ziplock bags or bins.

DRY by blotting with paper towel and stuffing loosely with paper towels to reshape. Air dry. Do not use hot air.

Audio-Video Tapes & CDs

MOVE from wet space. Remove case.

CLEAN CDs by rinsing in clean, cool water.

If do not have time or space to air dry, **KEEP WET** by sealing in ziplock bags. **DO NOT FREEZE.**

DRY by blotting with paper towel and leave to air dry. Do not use hot air.

Ceramic, Glass, Stone, Bone, Shell, Ivory & Metal

MOVE from wet space.

CLEAN by rinsing in clean, cool water. Do not soak. If mouldy or sewage contaminated, wash and disinfect.

DRY by blotting with towels and air dry. Dry ivory and bone slowly by covering them lightly with plastic. Dry metals quickly with hairdryer.

Furniture

MOVE from wet space.

CLEAN by wet sponging with clean, cool water. If mouldy or sewage contaminated, wash and disinfect.

DRY by blotting with towels and leave to air dry. Do not use hot air.

What You Need

Cool, dry space with good air circulation

- Lower the temperature
- Open windows
- Use fans and/or dehumidifiers if possible

Materials for drying and cleaning

- White paper & cloth towels
- Buckets & sponges

Materials for storing

- Ziplock bags & plastic wrap
- Plastic bins for large items
- Freezer on coldest setting

Contact Us With Your Questions!

We wish to share our expertise and advice in helping salvage family heirlooms, photos, documents and treasures damaged by the flood waters.

<https://www.facebook.com/nbmmnb/>

Email: info@nbm-mnb.ca (New Brunswick Museum)

Email: ncrconservators@gmail.com (National Capital Region Conservators)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Canadian Association of Professional Conservators: <https://capc-acrp.ca/en/>

Canadian Conservation Institute: <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute.html>

For advice from CCI, members of the Canadian heritage community can call 1-866-998-3721 day or night and press 0 for Security.

Other links:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/corporate/salvaging-personal-valuables.html>

Note: Be sure to contact your local Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) officials.

**Remember your personal safety is the most important thing!
Stay safe!**