



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOOKS: LEATHER OR VELLUM COVERS

Priority: Freeze as soon as possible; vellum will distort and disintegrate in water.

Handling: Do not move items until a place has been prepared to receive them. Do not open

Precautions: or close books or separate covers. Oversized books need to be fully supported; it may only be possible to move one at a time.

Preparation: Closed books that are muddy should be rinsed before freezing. If air drying is not

For Drying: possible, books should be frozen, preferably blast frozen, as soon as possible. Separate with freezer paper, pack spine down in milk crates, plastic boxes or cardboard boxes lined with plastic sheeting.

Supplies Needed

bread trays	blotter paper	bookends/bricks
dehumidifier	extension cords	freezer or waxed paper
fans	masking tape	Hollytex (polyester spunbond fabric)
plywood sheets	scissors	newsprint (sheets or rolls)
polyethylene film	plexiglass sheets	pliers, screw driver, tin snips
sponges	polyester film	milk crates or Rescubes
silicon release paper		

Drying: Thermaline or cryogenic drying is a new technique that promises to be the best for leather and vellum bindings. Books should be separated with freezer paper and packed spine down in milk crates or plastic boxes.

Air drying may be used for items that are not very wet. This requires space in an area away from the disaster to spread the books out. Books are stood upright and gently fanned open to dry.

Coated Paper requires that each and every page be interleaved with a non-stick material such as silicone release paper, Hollytex or wax paper.

Oversize volumes must lay flat and should be turned when the blotter is changed. Pages should be interleaved with sheets of uninked newsprint or blotting paper that is changed as it becomes saturated.

Keep the air moving at all times using fans. Direct fans into the air and away from the drying records. Use dehumidifiers as needed to maintain humidity at or below 50% RH.