

# Resources for Caring for Your Antiques

Compiled by Joseph Sherren, Collections Manager

## Where do I find companies who sell materials safe to use with my antiques?

Below is a list of conservation supply companies. All of them are reputable and professional and members of the preservation field use them regularly. Please note that each of these companies have a particular focus and it is important to investigate each one to find their specialties, product quality, and price.

### **Archival Products**

Website: <https://archival.com/>

1801 Thompson Ave.

Des Mines, IA 50316

Phone: (800) 526-5640

Email: [custserv@archival.com](mailto:custserv@archival.com)

### **Conservation Resources International**

Website: [www.conservationresources.com](http://www.conservationresources.com)

5532 Port Royal Road

Springfield, VA 22151

Phone: (800) 634- 6932

Email: [sales@conservationresources.com](mailto:sales@conservationresources.com)

### **Gaylord Archival**

Website: [www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com)

PO Box 4901

Syracuse, NY 13221-4901

Phone: (800) 448-6160

Email: [customerservice@gaylord.com](mailto:customerservice@gaylord.com)

### **Hollinger Metal Edge**

Website: [www.hollingermetalede.com](http://www.hollingermetalede.com)

9401 Northeast Dr.

Fredericksburg, VA 22408

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Phone: (800) 634-0491

Email: [info@hollingermetaledge.com](mailto:info@hollingermetaledge.com)

**Light Impressions** – the website has a great glossary of archival terms for reference, use this for the Renaissance Paper for liners on boxes (it's good for use in photographs, color prints, and textiles) because it is non-buffered, 25% cotton paper.

Website: [www.lightimpressionsdirect.com](http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com)

100 Carlson Rd

Rochester, NY 14610

Phone: (844) 656-4876

Email: [help@fdmbrands.com](mailto:help@fdmbrands.com)

## **Masterpak**

Website: [www.masterpak-usa.com](http://www.masterpak-usa.com)

145 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10022

Phone: (800) 922- 5522

Email: [service@masterpak-usa.com](mailto:service@masterpak-usa.com)

## **University Products**

Website: [www.universityproducts.com](http://www.universityproducts.com)

517 Holyoke, MA 01040

Phone: (800) 628-1912

Email: [info@universityproducts.com](mailto:info@universityproducts.com)

Where can I go to find a conservator?

**The American Institute of Conservators (AIC)**

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On its webpage [conservation-us.org](http://conservation-us.org), there is a section called “Find a Professional”. On that page, they have provided a resource guide for finding and hiring conservation professionals and you can find conservators sorted by geographic region. The result will be a list of conservators in your area that have expertise with the type of objects you wish to have conserved. There is another page on the site called “Caring For Your Treasures” that provides easy to interpret resources on a number of topics.

## **Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP)**

Check out their website at [rap-arcc.org](http://rap-arcc.org). It is a consortium of regional conservation and preservation centers around the country. Staff members who work at the organizations listed on this site can offer both advice and referrals. You can find related organizations and other resources under “Publications & Resources”.

## Where can I find good information about caring for antiques?

Please note that this list is in alphabetical order, it is not exhaustive because there are many resources out there. The organizations listed below are just some of the more prominent ones. Please take the time to explore each one and find the group that best serves your interests and needs.

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## American Alliance of Museums (AAM)

Although not the best source for specific object care methods for the general public, the American Association of Museums is the main advocacy organization and the conveyor of professional standards for the museum field. On its webpage they have a wonderful tool called Museum Marketplace which is available to the public. For those of you looking for businesses that supply services to museums including restoration and conservation, this is good place to start looking. In addition, they have a bookstore that sells books essential to anyone working in museums whether you are a board member, volunteer or professional staff. Under the section of “Collection Stewardship” are books that talk about collection care procedures. Keep in mind that most of the books are written by conservators for museum professionals and other conservators, but they can provide some useful information even for the general public.

Contact: American Association of Museums  
1575 Eye Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington DC 20005  
(202) 289-1818 (main number)  
Web page: [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org)

## American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

AASLH is an organization founded on the idea that history matters and actively promotes the strengthening of state and local history programs throughout the United States. In fact it is the only comprehensive national organization dedicated to promoting state and local history. It also has Technical Leaflets written by professionals in the field that address a wide variety of issues including how to care for paper based objects.

Contact: American Association for State and Local History  
1717 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37203-2991  
(615) 320-3203 (main number)  
Web page: [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

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### American Institute for Conservation (AIC)

In addition to having a referral service for Conservators, they also have numerous resources to help the general public care for their important family artifacts. In fact on their web page they have a section called “Caring for Your Treasures” that is easy to follow and very helpful.

Contact:       The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works  
1156 15th Street NW, Ste. 320  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 452.9545 (main number)  
Web page: [www.conservation-us.org](http://www.conservation-us.org)

### Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI)

The CCI has a stellar museum and conservation program and the resource they produce are excellent. One of their most important resources is their CCI Notes which are organized by topic and are available online. They also have Technical Bulletins and other resources including education programs you might find useful.

Contact:       Canadian Conservation Institute  
1030 Innes Road  
Ottawa ON K1B 4S7  
Canada  
(613) 998-3721 (main number)  
Web page: <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/conservation-preservation-publications/canadian-conservation-institute-notes.html>

### Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts

Again this is another organization that is geared to museum professionals. This web page can be a great resource for you because on their home page, there is a tab, Publications, which if you click the pull down tab, Related Web Sites, you will find links to a variety of resources including a tab called Conservation/Preservation for the General Public. This organization is another good source for names of conservators if you need one and they will do programs about preservation for niche groups such as scrap bookers.

Contact:       Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts  
264 South 23rd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 545.0613 (main number)

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Web page: [www.ccaha.org](http://www.ccaha.org)

## Conservation On-Line (CoOL)

This is an excellent resource for finding out more about the world of conservation and the resources that are available to you. This resource can be found only on-line and has links to the National Park Service, Conservation Division at Harper's Ferry as well as many other conservation facilities around the country. This web page has a link that is especially designed for the general public that presents information in easy-to-understand and digestible bits.

Contact: <http://cool.conservation-us.org/bytopic/genpub/>

## The Henry Ford/Benson Ford Research Center

This research center has done a lot in promoting the care of museum collection materials. For textiles they have an excellent web page entitled, "The Care and Preservation of Antique Textiles and Costumes" written by their chief conservator. It provides excellent straightforward information regarding how to care for your historic textiles as well as additional resources that are available.

Contact: The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Blvd.  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
(800) 835-5237 (main number)  
Web page: [www.thehenryford.org/research/caring/textiles.aspx](http://www.thehenryford.org/research/caring/textiles.aspx)

## National Park Service

The National Park Service has one of the best museum collection manuals available called Museum Handbook which was developed years ago to serve as a guide to standardizing museum collection care and documentation throughout the National Park Service system. In addition they have something called Conserv-o-grams which are topic specific, you can find these Conserv-o-grams in the top right of the page noted below

Contact: <https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/index.htm>

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Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

Specializing in documents and works on paper, the center has a 50-year history of connecting professionals and the public with resources to maintain an archival collection. The NEDCC is a trusted resource for information on the preservation of paper-based collections.

Contact: <https://www.nedcc.org/>

### Society of American Archivists (SAA)

This is the primary advocacy group and standardbearer for the archives field. Although their resources are geared towards professionals, their resources and documentation are plentiful and an excellent starting point for your endeavors.

Contact: <https://www2.archivists.org/>

### Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute

This is the main research conservation lab for the Smithsonian Institution. As part of their outreach program they have developed a web page called *Taking Care*. The topics cover more than textiles, but they have a fairly large section that addresses care issues related to textiles such as where to purchase acid free tissue, how to properly handle textiles and how to clean them. Please note that these discussions are for both professionals and the general public so if they say that the treating of stains for example is dangerous for both people and the textile it is wise to listen to this advice and not try the methods yourself.

Contact: Web page: [www.si.edu/MCI/english/learn\\_more/taking\\_care/index.html](http://www.si.edu/MCI/english/learn_more/taking_care/index.html)

For Mold

Issues: [https://www.si.edu/mci/english/learn\\_more/taking\\_care/mnm.html](https://www.si.edu/mci/english/learn_more/taking_care/mnm.html)

### The Textile Museum

This museum is located right here in Washington, DC and is considered one of the foremost international centers for the study of the textile arts. They have recently partnered with George Washington University which allows for not only increased academic resources but more display space as well. Their web page contains an excellent explanation of how to care for your textiles. They also have programs about the care and identification of your textiles.

Contact: <https://museum.gwu.edu/research-resources>

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## Washington Conservation Guild

This group is the local organizational group for conservators in the Washington, DC area. They regularly have member and public lectures, workshops, and conferences for a fee and sometimes for free. Their web page has excellent links to other preservation and conservation resources available to professionals and the general public.

Contact: [wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org](mailto:wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org)  
Webpage: [washingtonconservationguild.org](http://washingtonconservationguild.org)