

## Unbuffered Tissue

Many textile conservators request unbuffered tissue for use with costumes and artifacts comprised primarily of amino acid structure. Furs, feathers, wools, leather and silks are stored with neutral pH materials. Use unbuffered tissue for stuffing shoes, boots, handbags, hats, saddle bags, arrow quivers, etc. The tissue will help support any leather item.

When in doubt regarding the fiber content of your artifact, choose unbuffered materials for storage.

## Archival Poly Films

Archival Polyester, Archival Polypropylene and Archival Polyethylene

DuPont Melinex 516 is an archival quality polyester film that contains no plasticizers or surface coatings. Like Melinex, untreated polypropylene is inert, and provides excellent archival protection. Many archivists prefer polyester because of its greater stiffness and slightly greater clarity. The advantage of polypropylene and polyethylene is considerably more economical prices. These films provide excellent archival protection for documents and photographs while allowing these items to be viewed without removal from the protective storage product.

Our polyester products include envelopes, L-sleeves, binder pages, processing folders, map folders, sheets and rolls. Polyester sheets and rolls can be used to make book covers, shelf and drawer covers, slipcases, over wraps and interleaving sheets.

Our polypropylene products include sleeves, envelopes, binder pages and pamphlet jackets. We carry a large range of polyethylene bags to provide inert archival storage.

**Barrier Sheets:** Polyester film is a chemically inert barrier preventing acid migration. Cut sheets to the text block size to insert between acidic turn-ins and text block pages. Many older book boards are very acidic and need to be isolated from the text. Place the polyester film sheets further inside the text, next to the title page and index, to prevent further acid migration.

Barrier sheets can be in books where selected illustrations have been treated with a deacidification spray. Place a polyester sheet on both sides of these pages. Construct simple polyester folders to isolate acidic enclosures that must remain with the book. When rolling paper or textiles, protect the items from possible acidic tubes with a layer of polyester film.

**Processing Folders:** Fragile or torn papers can be protected by cutting and folding polyester film into a simple folder. By allowing a one inch margin on the three open sides, the natural cling of the polyester will hold the paper in place. Use these folders for photocopying fragile papers or as a temporary support for items awaiting repair.

**Overwraps:** Use polyester film as a final wrapping for rolled textiles, large prints or maps when placed on open shelves in storage areas where tissue may shred or tear. Secure in place with flat woven tapes or ribbons. Polyester film-wrapped oversized books or atlases that are stored flat will be protected from abrasion when pulled from stacks. The film surface may scratch, but will retain its inert quality.

## Intercept Sheets

Our 6 mil high density polyethylene Intercept sheets provide the usual inert barrier of archival polyethylene plus the additional protection of neutralizing common oxidizing atmospheric gases such as ozone, carbonyl sulfide, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen chloride, nitrogen dioxide and hydrogen sulfide. In Intercept polyethylene sheets, copper is covalently reacted into the polymer matrix. This copper backbone gives Intercept its ability to bond with and neutralize oxidizing gases. Intercept sheets can be placed inside any archival enclosure to obtain the added benefit of protection from atmospheric contaminants within the enclosure. Our six mil Intercept sheets will offer protection for at least six years before needing replacement.

## Tyvek

Made from high density polyethylene fibers, Tyvek is a chemically inert sheet of spunbonded olefin that is strong, lightweight, flexible and resistant to water, chemicals, abrasion and aging. Its low linting surface makes it ideal for storing photographic materials. The opaque, smooth surface can be sewn into bags or wrapped around a large variety of collectibles for protection from UV radiation and dust on open shelves.

**Protective Curtains:** Cut a length of Tyvek slightly longer than the height of your shelf. Secure the cut sheet at the top of the shelf. The curtain can be rolled up and left on the shelf top during the periods when the shelf needs to be open for access.