



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOOKS: CLOTH OR PAPER COVERS

Priority: Freeze or dry within 48 hours. **Coated paper** must not be allowed to air dry in a clump or it will permanently block together. If slightly damp and the pages are separable, air dry interleaved pages before items have an opportunity to dry. If saturated, coated paper must be frozen as soon as possible for subsequent vacuum freeze-drying.

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 within 48 hours. Separate with freezer paper, pack spine down in milk crates, plastic boxes or cardboard boxes lined with plastic sheeting.

Coated Paper requires that each and every page be interleaved with a non-stick material such as silicone release paper, Hollytex or wax paper. If the leaves cannot be separated without further damage, the book cannot be air dried successfully and must be prepared for vacuum freeze drying.

Supplies Needed

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| 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 Methods: Air Drying is suitable for small quantities of books (less than 100 volumes) that are not thoroughly soaked. Requires space in an area away from the disaster to spread the books out. Books are stood upright and gently fanned open to dry. Keep the air moving at all times using fans directed away from the drying volumes. Use dehumidifiers as needed to maintain humidity at or below 50% RH.

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 slightly larger than the book leaf and changed as it becomes saturated.

Freeze Drying (not vacuum thermal drying) is suitable for large quantities of books and books that are very wet. Pack as described above and ship to drying facility (Appendix 4).

Vacuum Freeze Drying is suitable for large quantities of books. Wet coated paper can only be successfully dried by this method. Pack as described above and ship to drying facility (Appendix 4). Pack carefully, as volumes packed with distortions will retain that distortion permanently after vacuum freeze drying.