

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS ADVISOR

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Timely Tips: Special Holiday Edition

By Tamara Hemmerlein, Director, Local History Services

This time of year seems to be full of all kinds of holidays for many of us. When we gather and celebrate our traditions, we often create memories that are represented by all sorts of objects. To keep those objects safe to remind us of happy times and to use for future storytelling, it's important to know how to store them.



[Timely Tips: Holiday Edition](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

For those special decorations that people we care about have made us or given us, use an acid-free, lignin-free box. Gently wrap the decorations in unbuffered tissue paper and place them carefully in the box. If there is extra space, cut a white pool noodle into small discs and use them to fill the space around and between the decorations. You can even use the discs to create space and raise a piece of acid-free board to create a shelf in the box to store very lightweight objects on top of the others in the box.

Wrap ornaments, dishes, candleholders, and figurines in unbuffered tissue paper or ethafoam

before you pack them away. Remember to clean them first, so that you're not packing up dust and debris along with your treasures. And, wrap lids and other loose pieces separately to avoid chipping and breaking when you move the box to storage and unpack it next year.

When you're packing metal objects for storage, wrap them carefully and store them away from humidity so that they don't rust and discolor. If you have special candles, pack them apart from your candleholders and store them somewhere that stays cool year round.

To store your ugly sweaters, be sure that they're clean and dry, then fold them carefully and put them away until next year. Avoid using mothballs or other chemicals when you store textiles. The chemicals may cause irreparable damage. If you're worried about pests, store the textiles somewhere that you access frequently and check them periodically.

Following these simple guidelines will help keep those objects safe until the next time you're ready to bring them out as part of your celebrations.

Further Resources

- [Collections Advisors](#) (Indiana Historical Society)
- [Conserv O Grams](#) (National Park Service)
- [Timely Tips](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

Collection Trainings

[Queering Digital Preservation](#)

December 6 (Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts)

Webinars

[Wet Recovery of Paper and Books](#) (American Institute for Conservation)

[Recorded](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

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[Local History Services](#)

(317) 232-1882 | localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org