

# *Margaret E. Geiss-Mooney*

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## REFERENCES

### **Hands On! Practical Conservation for the Collections Professional Thinking Inside & Outside The (Archival) Box: Some Tips For Storing 3D Costume**

NOTE: Please use caution when using any reference that is more than a few years old. Collection care recommendations are continually being updated. Materials and methods recommended just a few years ago may no longer be seen as safe or effective. Double-check with a conservator in that specialty about your particular situation and artifact.

**RC-WR Workshop Videos:** Past webinars accessed via:

<https://www.rcwr.org/learn/workshops/>

**Online “Find A Conservator” (AIC):**

<https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-conservation/find-a-conservator>

**Connecting To Collections Care Online Community (FAIC):** Online discussion group and free webinars aimed specifically at collections care. Sign up for discussion group to post your own specific questions, sign up for upcoming webinars and to view past webinars:

[www.connectingtocollections.org](http://www.connectingtocollections.org)

Remember to double check recommendations if the webinar is more than a few years old to verify the information.

**Health & Safety For Museum Professionals**, Catharine Hawks; et. al, editors. Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, 2011. ISBN 978-0-9841604-9-5 Chapter on the historic use of different pesticides in collections.

**NPS Museum Handbook, Part 1 Museum Collections,  
Appendix K: Curatorial Care of Textile Objects (2002)**

<https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/MHI/Appendix%20K.pdf>

Recommended changes: I do not recommend the use of archival tape inside a storage box (to attach fabric to lift boards for example) – I recommend using tailor’s tacks instead (polyester thread/ 1/8” polyester grosgrain ribbon/1/4” polyester twill tape used if environment is not well controlled; cotton embroidery floss OK to use if environment well controlled). An ‘enclosed top and bottom’ dust cover/shroud contains pieces that fall off, evidence of insect activity and protects immediately from light exposure and dust/debris when removed from the storage cabinet as well as providing an exterior ID tag/label location.

**National Park Service Conserve O Grams series**

Free information on techniques and materials to care for your objects:

[https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservoogram/cons\\_toc.html](https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservoogram/cons_toc.html)

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**Conserve O Gram No. 4/5 Storage Techniques for Hanging Garments: Padded Hangers** (December 2020)

<https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/4-5-Padded-Hangers-2020.pdf>

Recommended changes: Remember that your water quality must be excellent and your washing machine must be free from residue before washing/rinsing fabric cover fabric. Find a hanger shape that mimics the silhouette of the costume itself – a triangular shaped hanger may not be the best shape to provide the needed support for that particular costume. OK to use wood hangers if first enclose the wood with layer(s) of heavy duty aluminum foil (edges turned twice) and burnished down carefully before padding out and covering. Use polyester felt or densified polyester if costume will compress polyester batting due to its weight. Can also use cotton stockinette tubing (various widths available; rinsed before use to preshrink) as the cover, hand sewing edges to each other around the padding layer.

**Canadian Conservation Institute** [CCI Notes](#) - Over 100 [Notes](#) on care of cultural objects. Technical Bulletins.

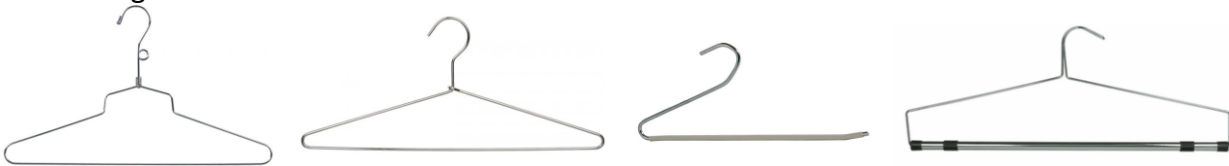
CCI Notes: <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/conservation-preservation-publications/canadian-conservation-institute-notes.html>

**Note 13/5 Hanging Storage for Costumes** (2009)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/conservation-preservation-publications/canadian-conservation-institute-notes/hanging-storage-costumes.html>

Recommended changes: I do not recommend the use of shrouds that open at the bottom; keep the seam allowances on the outside (do not turn inside out after stitching the seams).

**Hangers Sources:** Check out retail/online businesses like Ikea, The Container Store, Bed, Bath & Beyond, etc. as well as display fixture/store merchandising supply businesses. Do not use metal 'wire' hangers as the metal wire is not strong, stiff or thick enough. Hangers made from chrome plated metal rod, powder coated metal, anodized aluminum or stainless steel are recommended if the silhouette of the hanger and hanger width is appropriate for the particular costume. If the costume is extremely heavy, hangers can be doubled up before padding out/cover sewn on. Remove any vinyl/plastic coverings on the hanger before using it.



“Salesman hangers” (left) have a loop twisted in the longer neck of the hanger where a label/tag can be tied on, providing identification information for the hanger itself as well as the costume hanging on it (available widths 12”, 16”, 18”, 19”).

Hangers Direct: <https://www.hangersdirect.com/>

Grand+Benedicts: <https://www.grand-benedicts.com/>

The Fixture Zone: <https://thefixturezone.com/metal-hangers.html>

**Non-Absorbent/Non-Compressible Padding Out Supply Recommendations:** All are always then covered with fabric or stockinette before use.

**Heavy duty Aluminum Foil** – Compressed in to shape/size needed (add layers easily) – Very wide roll available from membership warehouse/restaurant supply businesses.

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**Polyester felt** (do not use wool/wool blend felt) – Good quality - approx. 1/8” thick. Available from fabric/craft store or online.

**Densified Polyester – Fairfield Nufoam™ Densified Polyester Pad** (different thicknesses available) is one brand. Available from fabric/craft store or online.

**Pool Noodles** – Made from polyethylene foam. Tie on to hanger using polyester twill tape or zip ties (position locking mechanism on the side of the hanger where the costume won’t come in contact). Easily shaped with a serrated knife. More sensitive to heat than aluminum foil or polyester felt in a disaster.

**Fabric sources:** PFD = Prepared For Dyeing recommended. Still rinse to preshrink fabric. Remember that your water quality must be excellent and your washing machine must be free from residue before washing/rinsing fabric cover fabric. Cotton, cotton/polyester blend and silk are recommended (woven fabrics). I do not recommend the use of linen because of its lignin content. 100% cotton stockinette tubing/tubular stocking (preshrunk/rinsed) can also be used as a padded hanger cover (various available widths via online).

Testfabrics: <http://www.testfabrics.com/>

Dharma Trading Company: <https://www.dharmatrading.com/>

**Archival Tyvek® tape:** Cover holes/slots on the outside of storage boxes that have holes/slots cut in to them during manufacturing (most storage boxes that are shipped flat) to keep out pests/dust/debris and to slow down smoke and water intrusion during a disaster. Apply over corrugated board edges (whether paper-based or polyethylene/polypropylene based) to keep pests/dust/debris out of the corrugation channels and to slow down smoke and water intrusion during a disaster. Burnish tape after applying using a blunt edge.



Lineco Tyvek tape 1”

Part # L8040150

Our Price: \$16.00



Lineco Tyvek Tape 1-1/2”

Part # L8041550

Our Price: \$20.96



Lineco Tyvek Tape 2-1/4”

Part # L8042250

Our Price: \$32.56

This pressure sensitive white polyethylene Tyvek tape displays incredible tenacity, even under the most rigorous of circumstances. Uses include hinging mats, binding folder spines, performing book repairs to battered books, as well as a variety of other uses. The pressure sensitive acrylic adhesive eliminates the sticky mess associated with moistenable adhesive backed Tyvek tapes around valuable art work.

<https://www.unitedmfrs.com/searchresults.asp?Search=tyvek>

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**Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program** (FAIC): “Provides small and mid-sized museums with partial funding toward a general conservation assessment. The assessment is a study of all of the institution's collections, buildings, and building systems, as well as its policies and procedures relating to collections care. Participants who complete the program receive an assessment report with prioritized recommendations to improve collections care. CAP is often a first step for small institutions that wish to improve the condition of their collections.” Next deadline is September 15, 2021 but program usually accepts applications every year.

<https://www.culturalheritage.org/resources/collections-care/cap>

**Small Museum Collection Care Grant program** (Costume Society of America): “A grant of \$1,500 is intended to assist the costume and textiles collection of a small museum (including historical societies, historic houses or sites, and other similar institutions) that has a very limited budget and staff. Funding may be used to support the care, conservation, and/or exhibition of costume and textiles that have historic, regional, or other significance and are intended for preservation.” Next deadline is October 15, 2021 but the program accepts applications every year.

<https://costumesocietyamerica.com/resources/grants-awards-and-honors/small-museum-collection-care-grant/>

**Collections Services Initiative (CSI) Project** (RC-WR): “Each year, in conjunction with the Western Museums Association Annual Meeting, RC-WR organizes its members to volunteer their professional skills at one of the museums near where the meeting is being held. We tend to volunteer at smaller museums, to help them catch up on projects such as: accessioning, cataloging, condition reporting, rehousing objects or any other work that would benefit from the help of trained professionals.”

<https://www.rcwr.org/csi-overview/>

**RE-ORG** (ICCROM): The RE-ORG Method is a step-by-step approach to help those who work with cultural collections to reorganize their current storage rooms, focusing on the creative, yet safe, use of existing resources.

<https://www.iccrom.org/section/preventive-conservation/re-org>