

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING LINGO

by: Picture It Framed



The art and custom framing industry, it seems, has its own language. If you are unfamiliar with the lingo, here are some definitions of the basic components to help you with your custom picture framing experience.

Frame: When the four pieces of moulding are assembled, it becomes a frame.

Acid-Free Mats: The mats called acid-free have been purified to neutralize the acidity. This type of mat is not a substitute for rag or alpha-cellulose mats when you want to adhere to conservation standards.

Hinge: A method used to attach art to a backing board.

Conservation Framing: The use of preservation materials and techniques to protect artwork.

Mat Border: Used to surround many prints, photos, certificates, etc., a mat border provides a visual resting spot between the art and everything around it, making it easier to view the art.

Mat Window: A hole cut into the mat so the art will be visible through it.

Bevel: When the window is cut into the mat, the blade cuts at an angle, exposing part of the mat's core.

Bottom-Weighted Mat: When the border beneath the art is wider than the border above and beside it.

Glazing: A generic term used for covering art and mats with glass or acrylic.

Dry Mount: A process for adhering prints to a rigid backing using heat-activated adhesives.

Foamboard: A board used to mount prints to or used as a backing.

Dust Cover: A paper backing used to finish off the back of the frame.

Bumpers: Rubber or felt pads that are placed on the bottom two corners of the frame. These provide an air space behind the frame and help to keep the frame straight on the wall.

Many more terms are utilized, so be sure to ask your professional picture framer to explain any terminology that you are not familiar with or do not understand.

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