

# STORING ARTWORK

by: Picture It Framed



If you are planning to store your framed pictures, there are several ways to safely protect the work.

Unframed pictures should be kept flat to avoid causing wrinkles, folds, deterioration and other types of damage that can occur while storing a rolled piece for a long period. A safe environment will help protect the works from dust, heat, light and humidity.

**Storing Unmatted, Loose Art:** Ideally, loose artwork is kept in shallow drawers and cabinets where there is a small chance of scuffing, and very little weight build-up. It is recommended that similar sized pieces be stored together, but keep acidic works, such as news clippings, separated, as the acids in the paper can be transferred to other documents and cause damage. Also, always place acid-free slip sheets between your pieces for better protection.

**Storing Framed Art:** Framed prints and documents should always be stored vertically and preferably in cabinets, separated by foam or felt covered separators. For long-term storage, all hanging devices and wires should be removed to prevent damage to other pieces.

Assess the condition of your storage space. Is there available space in a spare room, your building's basement or in a separate structure? What, if any, additional considerations will be necessary to maintain an optimal environment for storage?

Inventory your complete collection of framed paintings and other media, noting the size (width, height and depth), number and estimated weight of the objects to be stored.

Examine and record the condition of framed objects.

Calculate your space requirements based on current and future needs and how often you will store or rotate your collection.

All artwork, framed or loose, needs to be kept in a safe environment, preferably climate-controlled, and away from mold and mildew, dust, insects, air pollutants, and out of damp and/or humid areas. It is important to periodically examine your stored artwork to be sure no damage has occurred.

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