

Rolled Storage for Textiles

Introduction

A cardboard tube can form the basis of an excellent space-saving storage system for textiles that can be rolled. Tubes can accommodate pieces ranging from narrow lace yardage to large, heavy carpets.

The tubes most frequently used have a diameter of between 5 cm and 15 cm. Mailing, paper towel, and toilet paper tubes are ideal for smaller items. Larger tubes may often be obtained free of charge from carpet stores. Sono tubes, used in building construction, are 360 cm long and range in diameter from 15 cm to 150 cm. However, all of these tubes contain acidic materials that may, over time, adversely affect the textiles in storage. It is preferable to use acid-free tubes, which can be purchased from archival supply stores. Acid-free tubes are 8 cm in diameter, and range in length from 90 cm to 300 cm. Less expensive ABS tubes are available from building suppliers. Before using these tubes, however, wash them with detergent and water to remove any oily residues.

Many types of support systems can be used to store rolls. By inserting a wooden dowel or a pipe through a cardboard tube, a roll can be supported by brackets in cupboards (Figure 1) or in drawers (Figure 2),

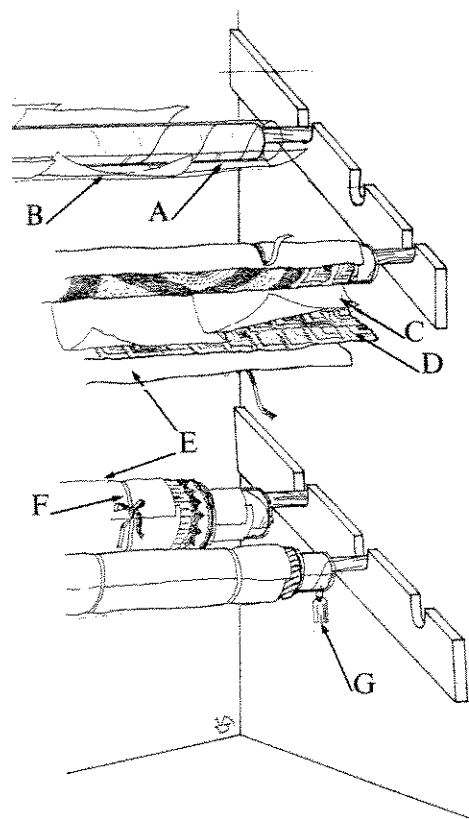


Figure 1. Bracket storage system (in a cupboard).

- A. Mylar covering a tube
- B. Acid-free tissue or prewashed cotton sheeting over Mylar
- C. Interleaving of neutral-pH tissue or prewashed cotton sheeting
- D. Textile with pile on outside
- E. Prewashed cotton cover
- F. Cotton tape
- G. Identification tag

For information on other storage methods, see CCI Notes 13/2, *Flat Storage for Textiles*; CCI Notes 13/5, *Hanging Storage for Costumes*; and CCI Notes 13/12, *Storage for Costume Accessories*.

Suppliers

Ethafoam:

Dow Chemical Canada Inc.
Branches in Vancouver, Calgary,
Regina, Toronto, Montreal,
Halifax, and St. John's

*Unbuffered, acid-free (neutral-pH)
tissue paper; acid-free tubes:*

Woolfitt's
390 Dupont Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 1V9
(416) 922-0933

OR

Calgary, Alberta
(403) 278-0565

Carr McLean
461 Horner Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M8W 4X2
(416) 252-3371

Bibliofiche
9620 route transcanadienne
Montreal, Quebec
H4S 1V9
(514) 336-4340

University Products of Canada
Division of BFB Sales
6535 Millcreek Drive, Unit 8
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 2M2
(416) 858-7888
toll-free: 1-800-667-2632

*Cotton sheeting and cotton tape:
fabric stores*

*Mylar; polyethylene sheeting; bubble
cushioning material:
suppliers of plastic products*

*Plastic sleeve tags:
office supply stores*

*Sono tubes:
suppliers of building materials*

Further Reading

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Lambert, Anne. *Storage of Textiles and Costumes: Guidelines for Decision Making*. Vancouver, University of British Columbia, 1983.

Strang, Thomas J.K. and John E. Dawson. *Controlling Museum Fungal Problems*. Technical Bulletin No. 12. Ottawa: Canadian Conservation Institute, 1991.