



## **FUMIGATION PROCEDURES**

Thank you for contacting Museum Textile Services about the fumigation of your object. Candidates for fumigation are objects with active mold or mildew, have recently had fire or smoke damage, or have signs of strong odor due to long term storage. This document walks you through our process from your dropping off to picking up your object. We follow these procedures because it helps us maintain the highest standards while adhering to the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice of the American Institute for Conservation.

Museum Textile Services opened our fumigation facility in Amesbury, Massachusetts in Spring of 2022. In our twenty-five years of business, we have seen a growing demand for remediation of mold/mildew and odors caused by microbial activity, smoke, and mustiness on textiles and other organic works of art. In response to our clients' needs, we now provide monthly fumigation cycles, along with optional surface cleaning, archival packing, and assessments for further conservation.

Using activated sodium chlorite, we expose objects temporarily to disinfecting vapor. Through the process of oxidation, the vapor breaks the molecular bonds of microbes that grow on organic materials which cause deposits, odor, and discoloration. Objects fumigated this way remain more resistant to recontamination under moist and warm conditions.

Our fumigation costs begin at \$450 for one unit. A unit of space is about two and a half cubic feet; equivalent to a 15-gallon Rubbermaid® tub, or one rolled item no larger than 8" diameter and 8' in length. Our entire fumigation space, five hundred cubic feet of space, is available for rent for \$3000. All objects received for fumigation must be unframed and brought inside a plastic container like the Rubbermaid® tub or wrapped in sealed plastic. Objects cannot be accepted in cardboard boxes, paper, or loose. Multiple objects must be accompanied with an itemized list of the contents. Fumigated objects will be returned in clean plastic if archival packing is not chosen. If objects are brought in a tub or on a tube, we will clean tube/tub and return the objects in the cleaned tub or on the cleaned tube.

Fumigation de-activates mold, but it does not remove the de-activated mold spores from the surface of your object. If you would like to have your object surface cleaned after fumigation, we can do so for a fee starting at \$150 per item. If you would like to have your object returned to you archivally packed, we can do so for a fee starting at \$75. Surface cleaning will only remove de-activated mold spores as a surface deposit, along with all other surface deposits. If the mold has stained your object, the surface cleaning will not reduce the staining. If you would like to have stains removed, repairs made to your object, or display treatments then we will have to conduct a conservation examination, which is explained in our "Conservation Procedures" document.

We accept objects within one unit of fumigation at our studio located at 200 Andover Street, Andover, Massachusetts. Objects for fumigation larger than one unit must be brought to our 10 Chestnut Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts studio.

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