



Preserve Your Memories

preservation tips for photos, family films, and video

DOs

DO choose albums and storage supplies that are:

- Acid-free
- Lignin-free
- Ph neutral
- Archival quality
- Photo-safe.

DO store photos and home movies away from heat, humidity, and sun. Keep them cool, high (in case of floods), and dry!

DO transfer your home movies to video, but never discard the original film! Film will last longer than video or DVD. There's nothing like the original!

DO use photo pencils (#2 or softer) if you must write on the backs of images.

DO use clean hands or clean, cotton gloves when handling old photos.

DO store photos in mylar sleeves or paper envelopes inside light-tight archival boxes or upright albums.

DO store film negatives in archival quality sleeves--negatives are your source for future prints!

DO print your digital photos, back-up your digital photos often, and keep copies in a separate location for safety.

DON'Ts

DON'T use:

- Rubber bands, staples, tape or glue
- Ink or marker on photos
- Self-adhesive photo pages
- PVC plastic albums, sleeves, or bins!

DON'T store in basements or attics!

DON'T expose to sunlight or fluorescent light, dust, or humidity!

DON'T store in wooden chests or containers!

DON'T throw your family films away. Donate them to an archive instead!

LOW TECH = HIGH TECH!

Ironically, the best way to preserve digital memories is to print them out! Paper is more stable than digital files.

Professional prints (such as from Adorama) will last longer than inkjet prints done at home.

Consider making an album at the end of each year with your best digital photos from your phone or digital camera!

More Resources, Tips, & Videos:

www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/

www.loc.gov/preservation/family/

www.centerforhomemovies.org/yours/

www.ashleymaynor.com/familyarchives/



Ashley Maynor