

North East Museums Display Case Specification

- Conservation specifications for case design will depend on the objects that are to be displayed in them.
- Cases are to provide a stable environment protecting the objects from changes in RH. They must therefore be well sealed using a **non-acetic acid** silicone sealant. i.e. Silastic 744 (white), Silastic 3145 (clear) or Silastic 7091 (black or grey) alcohol curing sealants. Available from Silicone Sealant ISL Ltd, International Centre, Spindle Way, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1TG. (01293) 562961. For bought in cases a good standard to follow is no air change greater than 1 every 24 hours. Most manufacturers can supply this and some can supply cases with 1 air change every 48 hours.
- Cases should be made of metal and glass, where possible. Glass should be approximately 10 mm thick and laminated or toughened. Fine and applied art cases should be made of metal and glass.
- MDF and perspex should only be used where the lower security and lesser air-sealage will not pose a security/environmental risk to the exhibits. MDF should be the zero formaldehyde grade and must be sealed with a vapor barrier: Marvelseal 360 is preferred for baseboards inside cases, with a fabric covering, but z-MDF sealed with at least two coats of Dacrylate Clear Acrylic Varnish is also acceptable, this also allows the z-MDF baseboards to be painted.
Marvelseal 360 & acid free foil sealing tape with acrylic self-adhesive can be purchased from : Preservation Equipment :
<https://www.preservationequipment.com/Catalogue/Conservation-Materials/ShippingPacking/Marvalseal-barrier-film>
Dacrylate Clear Acrylic Glaze can be purchased from : Dacrylate :
<https://dacrylate.co.uk>
- There should be two locks per door. Locks should have a minimum of 5 levers.
- Doors should be equipped with hidden hinges.
- Cases must not be portable.
- Access should be via doors with non-rubber gasket seals.
- Heavy cases should be on wheels or designed to be moved by forklift.
- Plinths with Perspex hoods should be fully secured, the Perspex hood should be fixed to the plinth using security screws

- Light boxes should be sealed from the main case and vented at the top to prevent heat build up. Where possible light levels should be controllable using a dimmer switch. UV should not exceed 75 mw/l. Lux <80 for light sensitive material. The Conservation Department should be consulted when setting light levels.
- Prosorb compartments should be easily accessible and only large enough to insert the number of trays necessary. It should be possible to change the Prosorb without entering the display space itself. The Prosorb compartment beneath the display space should be sealed with an acrylic sealant to make the space more air-tight and enable the buffering medium to function to maximum efficiency. The buffering material must be allowed to vent into the display space.

Cases containing silver should incorporate tarnish Inhibitor capsules. These protect the Silver from tarnishing for up to 12 months (one capsule protects 33 cubic feet) Please speak to the Conservation Dept about this.

- Non-acidic materials must be used at all times; felt and wool in particular should be avoided because they attract insect pests. Please consult the Conservation Dept for approved materials. We can Oddy Test anything provided that a 6g sample of the material is available (approx. 10 cms squared)
- Graphics in cases should be mounted on p.h.-neutral foam-board
- Paints used inside display cases should be water based emulsion, and baseboards or back boards which need to be painted should be given at least 48 hours to dry (preferably longer) before any objects are installed in the display case. Any object which is not on a mount and is sitting directly on the baseboard should have a barrier between the object and the painted surface, this barrier layer can be made from Melinex and can be cut to the profile of the object so that it is not seen.
Melinex can be purchased from Preservation Equipment :
<https://www.preservationequipment.com/Catalogue/Archival-Storage/Polyester-pockets-sleeves-products/Polyester-Rolls>
- Every object / group of objects will have different requirements and cases must be specifically designed to suit these. Please consult the Conservation Department.