

Preservation Newsletter—December, 2017

Keeping Collections Safe Through Winter

We tend to think of Summer when we think of humidity and the dangers that it can pose to collections, but in our stacks, WINTER is the most challenging time of year!

The temperature differential between the outside air and the air indoors can lead to condensation forming on exterior walls—which can then lead to MOLD.

In addition, the cycle of water freezing and the melting on roof and exterior walls can cause seepage through cracks and other openings.

Be aware of the danger zones in your collections storage areas and monitor them daily!

- Keep collections and supplies away from walls and hatch openings and avoid leaning items against the walls
- Monitor stacks daily, especially after rain or snow melt—look for damp spots and mold on walls
- Provide protective housings for wooden objects and damaged paint surfaces
- Be careful moving metal and photographic materials from storage into office space/reading room/exhibit areas—keep them in a box so that materials have time to warm up slowly without developing condensation
- Avoid tracking salt and slush from your shoes into stack areas

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Jennifer or Kat in the Preservation Lab—we want to help you!

*The Werner J. and Gisella Levi Cahnman Preservation Laboratory*