

Caring for your prints

Proper care can help extend the life of your treasured portraits. There are many factors that can affect the quality of a print over time, such as sunlight, ultraviolet radiation, excessive heat or humidity. To protect your prints, here are some guidelines that should be followed:

- Do not place in direct sunlight.
- Photographs should not be kept in areas of the home that are moist, humid or too hot, such as an attic or basement.
- Photographs should be matted to prevent the picture from coming in contact with the glass.
- Use only archival -- acid-free -- materials. Cardboard backs should not be used. If using inexpensive frames, discard the cardboard backing, unless it is marked as being acid-free.
- An alternative for backing is using a foam-core board. Foam-core is relatively inexpensive, archival and offers cushioning to your photograph.
- To help filter direct light that may shine on your photographs, UV filtering glass is best. It is expensive, but worth the investment. It filters 90% of UV rays that are responsible for fading images.
- When deciding how to store your photographs, look for albums, mats and any material that will come in contact with your photograph to be listed as, *photo safe, acid free and PVD free*.
- Be sure the area surrounding your photographs is kept clean and free from pests. Photographic material can provide an attractive source for pests and rodents.
- Photographs should be viewed in a clean, uncluttered area. Hands should be cleaned prior to handling your photographs to remove excess oils and dirt. If possible, wear white cotton gloves to prevent finger printing and soiling.
- Ink pens should not be used around photographs. If it is necessary to write on your photographs, write lightly using a soft-lead pencil on the reverse side.

I hope you find these tips helpful in preserving your memories for a lifetime.

Jacque Haeffner

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