



StEPS-UT Stewardship of Collections When to Call a Conservator

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY #1 = 60 minutes Basic Dry Cleaning Techniques

Hands-On Activity #1 – section A:

Rolling Your Own Cotton Swabs – Demonstration & Practice (10 minutes)

Materials:

- Cotton wool
- Bamboo skewers



Instructions:

- 1) Take a long, thin strip of cotton wool in one hand.
 - 2) Applying pressure between the fingers and thumb of your non-dominant hand, twist the bamboo skewer until all of the cotton is wrapped around the stick.
 - 3) The size and shape of the swab can be customized by the amount of cotton used.
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Hands-On Activity #1 – section B: **Cleaning with Smoke Sponge (20 minutes)**

Materials:

- Condition reporting form or other means of documenting treatment
- Vulcanized rubber sponge (aka smoke sponge)
- Other cleaning tools could include: cotton swabs, microfiber cloth
- Clean your tools using Orvus paste

Instructions:

- 1) Assess the object, observing its stability, nature and location of “dirt,” etc. Using the space below, record your observations about the object (5 minutes).
- 2) Clean object (10 minutes).
 - ✓ Test an unobtrusive area of your object to ensure the suitability of the cleaning method.
 - ✓ Gently dab the surface of the object to remove dirt and grime.
 - ✓ Move to clean area of sponge as you work on your object.
 - ✓ NOTE: Your sponge will become dirty as you go – keep moving to a clean area of the sponge and continue cleaning. Sponges may be washed in cold water and reused, or sponges can be cut into small pieces to maximize the surface area available for cleaning.
- 3) Record your treatment and observations in the space below (5 minutes).



Object Name:

Materials:

Dimensions:

Condition:

Reason for treatment:

Treatment Record

Date:

Your name:

Treatment undertaken:

Observations during treatment:



Hands-On Activity #1 – section C: Vacuuming Textiles (20 minutes)

Materials:

- Condition reporting form or other means of documenting treatment
- Vacuum cleaner (vacuums with HEPA filters are recommended for museum applications).
- Mesh screen (secure edges so they don't scratch or pull object surface)
- Other cleaning tools could include: brushes, baby nasal aspirator
- Clean your tools using Orvus paste



Instructions:

- 1) Assess the object, observing its stability, nature and location of “dirt,” etc.
Using the space below, record your observations about the object (5 minutes).
- 2) Clean object (10 minutes).
 - ✓ Test an unobtrusive area of your object to ensure the suitability of the cleaning method.
 - ✓ Make sure your vacuum is set to the lowest available suction.
 - ✓ Hold the vacuum nozzle with the tube over your shoulder to prevent the tube from dragging on the object's surface.
 - ✓ Vacuum the object through the mesh screen, using care not to drag the vacuum across the object surface.
 - ✓ NOTE: You may want to track your progress on a diagram of the object.
- 3) Record your treatment and observations in the space below (5 minutes).

Object Name:

Materials:

Dimensions:

Condition:

Reason for treatment:

Treatment Record

Date:

Your name:

Treatment undertaken:

Observations during treatment: