

PACKAGING AND CONTAINERS

Archival packaging helps protect archives from potential damage due to light, humidity, pests, water, dust, soot and insect sprays. Where possible items should be placed in acid-free packaging and stored in archival quality boxes.

Packaging that is in direct contact with documents should be of the highest quality.

Terms such as *acid free*, *wood free*, *lignin free*, *alkaline buffered*, *permanent* and *archival* are often used by manufacturers to indicate the quality of a product.

For paper-based records – A wide variety of archival quality containers, ranging from simple folders to wallets, standard documents boxes and tailor-made boxes. These are made of high quality material such as acid-free paper, tissue and card, polyester or polypropylene. Avoid packaging made from polyvinyl chloride (PV) because it breaks down over time into a strong acid that damages paper and photographs.

To archive your documents you will need to use:

- Archives Boxes (Container Type 1.1) for standard files up to foolscap (grey boxes)
- Acid free manila folders/wallets

The material can be ordered from the Archives or directly from the supplier:

Archival Survival

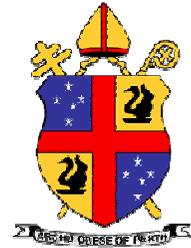
Phone: 1300 78 11 99

info@archivalsurvival.com.au

www.archivalsurvival.com.au

HOW TO ARCHIVE - TIPS

- Remove all metal paper clips, staples and pins before archiving (they rust!). Use plastic coated paper clips when necessary
- Do not use PVC plastic to store records as it gives off damaging vapours. PVC plastic can be identified by its smell which is like that of the interior of a new car
- Documents with Post-It Notes should be copied on acid-free paper. If covering some text, move the Post-it Note to a blank section of the page
- Do not laminate archival items because lamination cannot be easily removed and will result in the slow deterioration of a document
- Remove sticky tape whenever possible, without damaging the paper
- Use cotton tape to tie up papers. Make sure they are first bundled in a folder or wallet, then use cotton tape
- Photocopy faxes and documents on thermal paper
- Photocopy any documents (old photocopies and carbon copies) which are fading
- Photocopy articles that you want to archive from newspaper magazines. Make sure you can identify the article by noting the name of the newspaper, date of the edition and page number
- Label your folders (using sticky labels or writing on pencil). Confidential information needs to be labelled “Restricted” stating whom access is restricted to
- Photos must be stored separately from documents.



PARISHES GUIDELINES ON ARCHIVING DOCUMENTS

This brochure has been created by the Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth. Its aim is to guide Parishes on what and how to archive documents. For further information and resources about archival practices please contact:

Archives

Phone: (08) 9228 8020

Email: archives@perthcatholic.org.au

ARCHIVES

1. A GROUP OF RECORDS HELD TOGETHER
2. AN ORGANISATION THAT HOLD HISTORICAL RECORDS
3. THE WHOLE BODY OF RECORDS DOCUMENTING PAST ACTIVITIES
4. A SINGLE RECORD OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Parish Archives

The following Official Records of the Parish should be permanently kept in the Parish Archives and be ready for the inspection of the Archbishop or Bishop at the time of the Parish Visitation. They include:

- Sacramental Registers: Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Convalidation Registers
- Records of Acolytes, Special Ministers and Adult catechumenate
- Documents of the Parish Visitations by the Archbishop or Bishop
- Official correspondence of the Parish with the Archbishop and Bishop, with other Church Organisations, with Government Authorities, with Parishioners and with the wider public
- Parish Census
- Parish Council Minutes
- Minutes of Meetings of other Official Parish Organisations
- Parish History

Additional Material for the Archives

- Parish Bulletins
- Parish Publications, Flyers, Booklets
- Booklets prepared for special occasions: First Communions, Confirmations and Jubilees
- Publications relating to special programmes run by the Parish
- Rosters for Altar Boys, Musicians, Readers, Church Cleaners, Altar Decorators
- Memorabilia of special events: Interviews, tapes, videos, CD's and photographs (name and date them as soon as possible)
- Photographs of Priests, Assistant Priests, Pastoral Worker, Parish Council (identify with name, position and year)
- Gifts and Bequests from Parishioners
- Clippings from newspapers and magazines
- Eulogies, Requiems, Obituaries
- Museum Objects: Vestments, Altar Linens, Church plates etc.
- Financial records: Accounts and all receipts must be kept for 7 years (unless there has been an incident of fraud and therefore these must be kept permanently). After the legal requirement time period, keep the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheets, but you can dispose of the receipts.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE STORAGE SPACE

- Ideally, the storage area for archives will have no windows but, if it does, blinds or curtains will be used on windows to control the amount of natural light entering the room
- Air conditioning is desirable!
- Archives should be stored in a room that can be locked when not in use to protect against theft and vandalism
- It is advisable to store archives in the part of the building that is most environmentally stable. This usually means an area in the centre of the building, away from external walls
- Store archives at least 10cm off the floor to lessen the risk of damage from water, damp, pests and dust. If shelving is not available, avoid ground contact by storing items on pallets or blocks. Do not store them on top of the shelving unit shelving, as they will be too close to ceiling lights and could be damaged by water from sprinklers
- Shelving needs to be robust. Powder-coated steel is the best material for shelving as it is strong and does not contain contaminants likely to damage records. Wooden shelving should be avoided as it can harbour insects and contribute to the spread of fire.