

NOTICE: This is a simple manual for treating library materials in general based on cases in the National Diet Library. When you treat rare books or severely damaged materials, we recommend you consult an expert in conservation treatment.

Drying wet materials 2

If a large number of books get wet, you can dry them efficiently using book carts, bookends, and cardboard.



Necessary Items

- Cardboard (3 sheets per item of material, slightly larger than the material)
- Towels
- Absorbent paper (non-colored paper, copying paper, etc.)
- Book carts
- Bookends
- Fan



Arrows indicate the direction of the air from the fan.



- Check the wet parts and dab away moisture with a towel.
- Loosely curl the absorbent paper in half and interleave the material with it.
- Place one piece of cardboard flat and two other pieces on top in a V shape. Place the book with absorbent paper on top of them, with the spine down. Use the bookends to support the "V". Use the book cart to set up this system and position it in such a way that the air from the fan can blow between the pages.
- Use the cardboard so that the air can pass through the space between layers of cardboard (see photo, above left).
- When the materials get semi-dry, remove the absorbent paper, and sandwich the materials between boards. A weight will help prevent pages from waving or being distorted (see photo, below left).



Book cart

Key Points

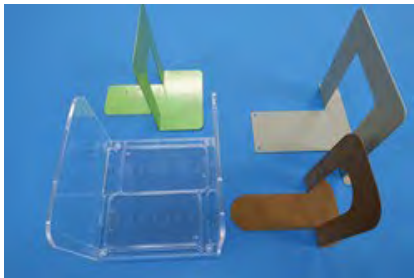
- Use a flat-shelved book cart with no back panel so that the air can pass through easily (see photo).
- While drying, check periodically (once per day).
- Cardboard allows air to pass through, so it can support materials without becoming damp.
- Occasionally check the airflow and swap the position of the materials and book cart to dry the material more evenly.

<Notes>

- Be careful not to open the gutter too much, as this may damage the binding of the material.
- Thin materials such as pamphlets are not suitable for this method as the pages may become heavily deformed.

- If there is a possibility of mold infection, isolate and separately dry the material in question from other materials and stacks to prevent the spread of contamination. Later on, wipe off the moldy substance attached to materials using disinfectant ethanol. (See “Cleaning mold-damaged materials” for cleaning method.)
https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/preservation/pdf/cleaning_molddamaged_materials.pdf
- Coated paper, often used for graphic books, easily sticks together. Inserting a paddle can separate them to some extent, but could damage the surface of the paper. Careful decision making is needed when doing this.

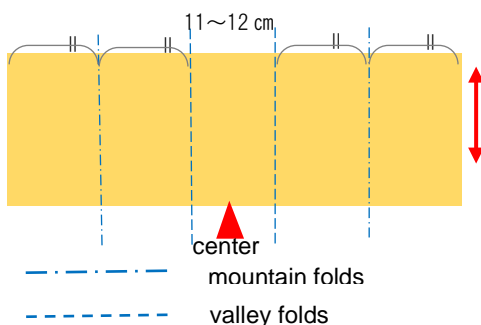
<Reference> About bookends



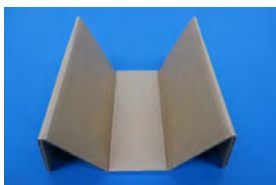
Various bookends

- Bookends can be made of metal or plastic.
- If there are not enough bookends, they can be made from cardboard.

How to make cardboard bookends



The arrows indicate the direction of airflow through the space between the layers of cardboard.



- Fold a rectangular piece of cardboard into the shape of two mountains and a valley by making four symmetrical folds with a bone folder.
- Depending on the thickness of the cardboard and the size of the material, the approximate width of the central fold is 11-12 cm.
- To prevent the sides from spreading out, hold them down with other bookends or the edge of a book cart.

Necessary Items

Cardboard (approx. 25 cm x 75 cm)

*The direction through the space between the cardboard flutes should be aligned with the fold.

Bone folder, ruler

Note

The methods described here are intended for general materials to be treated by librarians who do not have specialist knowledge or skills in restoration. They are not intended for valuable or severely deteriorated materials. The National Diet Library cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage to materials as a result of work carried out using the methods described here.