

NOTICE: This is a simple, general purpose manual for handling library materials based on our experience at the National Diet Library. When you handle rare books or severely damaged materials, we recommend you to consult an expert in conservation treatment.

Dry Cleaning with Powder Eraser

This is a dry-cleaning method for materials whose paper quality is relatively smooth. This is a good way to clean one-sheet materials, because powder eraser makes it possible to clean a wide surface evenly.

Tools:

- Grater
- Plastic erasers (not with color or scent)
- Brush
- Cloth gloves



Things to check before cleaning:

Check to see if there is any writing which should not be erased, or any tears.

Procedures:

Grate a plastic eraser with a grater to make powder eraser.



Place one spoonful of powder eraser on the material to be cleaned. Move your palm in a circle from the center outward while rubbing the material lightly to clean the dirt. When the powder eraser becomes dark, blow it off and use another spoonful of powder eraser.



The other hand which presses the material should wear a cloth glove so that the material does not get oil marks from the hand. When cleaning many materials at once, it is better to wear a glove on the other hand which rubs the materials to protect the hand from friction.



When the cleaning is done, brush off the powder eraser carefully so that the powder will not be left on the material. If any powder is left on the material, it might cause the material to be stained or to get sticky.



For a dirty spot in a small area, use a plastic eraser without grating. Do not rub hard as it might damage the material. Move the eraser only in one direction.

Important tips:

- Be careful not to rub the material too hard as it might be damaged.
- This method is not suitable for book-style materials because if the powder eraser gets into the gutter and such, it can be hard to remove.