

Exercise #10 Humidifying and Flattening Paper

Where possible, before wet treatment, dirt should be removed by the cleaning methods already demonstrated.

Humidifying paper causes it to shrink on air drying. To control this shrinkage it is necessary to keep the paper under restraint as it dries; this will emulate the mechanical conditions under which the paper was originally made.

The successful introduction of moisture into paper depends on three variables:

- *The paper's ability to absorb moisture*
Previously mold-damaged, water-damaged and brittle papers are more susceptible to moisture as a result of their deterioration.
- *The control of the application of that moisture*
Humidifying the paper can be done with water using a spray or by creating damp blotter packs.
- *The drying technique*
Drying under sufficient weight will control the shrinkage.

Note: Some papers, such as clay coated papers, are more prone to stick together when they are wetted and dried in contact with each other.

This repair is most often used for: single pages or foldouts that have been crumpled or creased.

Materials & Tools:

spray pump
blotting paper
boards and weight

Procedure: *When the item can be removed from the book*

1. Lay the item to be humidified on a larger piece of blotting paper.
2. First fill the spray bottle with water and then pump it; test the spray to assess the fineness of the spray--make sure it is not "spitting."
3. Spray a foot away from and a foot above the object.
4. Blot the item to remove excess water. Change blotting paper until dry to touch.
5. Place the paper between blotting paper, boards, and under a weight to dry overnight.



OVER

Materials and tools:

Mylar
sheets of *lightly* dampened blotting paper, cut to size
boards and weights

Procedure: *When the item cannot be removed from the book, humidify using a “damp” blotter pack.*

1. Use a spray bottle to mist two sheets of blotting paper.
2. Place a sheet of Mylar as a barrier sheet behind the creased page.
3. Place a sheet of the lightly dampened blotting paper on top of the Mylar.
4. Turn the creased page on to the dampened blotting paper.
5. Place another sheet of the lightly dampened blotting paper on top of the creased page.
6. Place a piece of binder’s board and weights on top of the blotting paper.
7. Leave for an hour and replace the lightly dampened blotting paper with dry blotting paper. Repeat twice more.
8. Leave overnight to fully dry under a blotter pack.

