

Moving objects internally

It is often necessary to move objects around your museum. For this, they do not need to be packed to the same level as for international loans, but it is still important that they are packed properly.

The easiest way of moving objects internally is using an RUB® and tissue clouds.

A RUB, or Really Useful Box, is a clear plastic box with a sealable lid, which can be stacked.

Tissue clouds are balls of conservation appropriate tissue paper, folded to trap air- creating a soft cushion to support objects.

As a rule, objects should not be packed in layers when using this method. However, if absolutely necessary, a sturdy piece of acid-free card, or other inert material, can be used to separate the packed layers of objects.



Small objects

Very small objects such as jewellery require extra protection to avoid them sliding around, or falling down between tissue clouds.

Crystal boxes are most suitable for this. They are clear plastic boxes with sealable lids.

Inside the box, the object should sit in a Plastazote® cut-out or small tissue cloud. An extra tissue cloud can be placed on top if necessary to hold the object down.



Large or heavy objects

It is not possible to pack many large or heavy objects using a box and tissue clouds. For these, trolleys or barrows are essential.

If the object will fit, place it on a thick layer of Plastazote® on the lowest level of the trolley. Plastazote® wedges or tissue clouds can then be used to support the object in this position.

It is strongly recommended that two people accompany a trolley when it contains an object. This enables one person to keep an eye on the object, while the other worries about manoeuvring the trolley.

Without a lid, large objects will need a cover if they are taken outside. Covers can be made from either Tyvek® or unbleached cotton dust sheets.

Internal moves

Making a tissue cloud

Tissue clouds are a quick and easy method of supporting objects. There is no correct way of making them, but a more effective method is shown below.

A good tissue cloud will trap a lot of air, and will not be densely compacted.

