



What's Eating Your Collection?

Controlling damp

If the damp is localised, increasing the air flow can often be enough to remove the problem. For pictures and other wall mounted objects, fitting small blocks of wood or plastazote behind the object (spacers) means that an air gap is created. This small gap (c. 5mm) is enough to lift the object out of the stagnant air.

Objects standing on floors through which moisture penetrates can be placed on blocks (2.5-5cm) to lift them away from the moisture.

Damp in spaces can be controlled by increasing the ventilation. Natural ventilation systems, such as grills, air bricks, vented chimney caps, should be checked to ensure that they are functioning properly. Alternatively, fans can be used to force air to circulate.

Rooms below ground level may be constantly damp due to soil being in constant contact with the building allowing moisture to pass into the room. Steps can be taken to improve ventilation in consultation with a building specialist. The use of heaters may help to bring the RH down to an acceptable level. It may not, however, be possible to reduce the RH sufficiently to prevent condensation, mould growth or insect infestation. In these instances, it is advisable not to use this type of space for collections that would be affected by the conditions.