



ADVANCED FOAM
TECHNOLOGY FOR
**MUSEUMS AND
GALLERIES**



AZOTE®
high performance
polyolefin foams



ZOTEK®
advanced
polymer foams

Archival PLASTAZOTE® and EVAZOTE® Foams

The professional's choice for conservation packaging, protection and display.

High-performance, closed-cell, crosslinked, polyethylene and EVA foams.

Priceless works of art, historical artifacts and natural history specimens all require premium protection during display, transportation and archival storage. In many conservation applications the use of high purity polyethylene foam is desirable and the material setting the standards for purity and consistency is Plastazote.

PLASTAZOTE® FOAM - High purity closed-cell, crosslinked, polyethylene foam.

EVAZOTE® FOAM - High purity closed-cell, crosslinked, EVA copolymer foam.

Zotefoams uses a unique high-pressure nitrogen impregnation process to manufacture foams of exceptional purity and consistency... Foams that are ideal for conservation purposes and have a proven performance record in Museums and Galleries.

AZOTE® foams are lightweight, durable and chemically inert with isotropic mechanical properties. They are completely CFC, HCFC, HFC and VOC free and contain no potentially corrosive and staining blowing agent residues.

Extremely durable, stable and odour-free, AZOTE® foams are available in a range of densities and attractive colours. These coloured foams utilise solid pigments that are completely bound in the polymer matrix and consequently are non-migratory and non-leaching.

OUTSTANDING PROPERTIES

AZOTE® is easy to fashion. Produced in 2m x 1m buns, it can be cut, sawn, sanded, routed, die cut, thermoformed, waterjet cut, laminated and welded to make virtually any shape required.

Being closed-cell, it is easily cleaned of dust and particles and may be washed using household soaps and detergents in warm water.

- High purity
- Non-staining
- Acid and ammonia free
- Water and chemical resistant
- Good grip elasticity
- Good energy absorption
- Uniform density profile
- Outstanding aesthetic appeal
- Good pin retention



TYPICAL APPLICATIONS:

- General packaging and cushioning
- Display case lining
- Box lining
- Drawer liners and custom inserts
- Box and case inserts
- Book stands and pillows
- Customised case inserts
- Box making
- Backing and support panels
- Working boards for sorting specimens
- Storage and packing of fragile items
- Picture padding - gap filler
- Letters and signs



Plastazote foam users include:

ARCHIVES NATIONALES DE PARIS
ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
AUKLAND ART GALLERY - NEW ZEALAND
BATE COLLECTION (MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS)
BATH ROYAL LITERARY & SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION
BIBLIOTECA HISTÓRICA MARQUÉS DE VALDECILLA DE MADRID
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE
BODLEIAN LIBRARY
BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY - NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE DATA CENTRE
BRITISH LIBRARY
BRITISH MUSEUM
BUSHEY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
ÇATALHÖYÜK RESEARCH PROJECT - TURKEY
CENTRE INTERRÉGIONAL DE CONSERVATION DU LIVRE - FRANCE
CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY - DUBLIN
CULTURAL CENTER PICASSO - FRANCE
DURHAM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
ENGLISH HERITAGE
FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM - CAMBRIDGE
HANCOCK MUSEUM
HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE - SINGAPORE
HISTORISCHES MUSEUM - FRANKFURT
HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE NATIONAL MUSEUM
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM
JORVIK VIKING CENTRE
LEEDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
LIVERPOOL MUSEUM
LONDON SCIENCE MUSEUM
MOTHS OF BELIZE EXPEDITION
MUSÉE NATIONAL EUGÈNE DELACROIX
MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND
NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND
NATIONAL MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES OF WALES
NATIONAL TRUST
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION
OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
PALAIS DU LOUVRE
PETRIE MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY
ROYAL ARMORIES

READING MUSEUM
SMITHSONIAN, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM
SOUTHAMPTON HISTORIC SITES UNIT



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TATE BRITAIN
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY - NEW ZEALAND
UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID HISTORICAL LIBRARY
UPPER AUSTRIAN MUSEUMS GROUP
VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM



②

WILLIAMSTOWN ARTS CONSERVATION CENTER - MA USA
YORK MUSEUMS TRUST



ZOTEFOAMS
THE FOAM TECHNOLOGISTS

Comments and recommendations from the experts:

MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES COUNCIL PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME (FINDS.ORG)

"Recommended Packaging Materials... 8. Closed-cell Polyethylene foam (e.g. Plastazote®)"

THE HERITAGE COUNCIL - IRELAND

"Do use correct materials such as plinths, plastazote - a polyethylene foam used for cushioning material - paper weights, and gloves to support and handle the material."

NATIONAL PRESERVATION OFFICE

"Polyethylene foam (eg. Plastazote™) can be used to line shelves or drawers in order to soften hard surfaces."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE... AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

"A dense, finely textured plastic foam known as 'Plastazote' is better than polyethylene for entomological applications"

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES COMMISSION. "STANDARDS IN THE MUSEUM CARE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS"

"Small instruments should be stored in nests of acid-free tissue paper in acid-free boxes or in freely running drawers, or else in specially cut slots in Plastazote (polyethylene foam)."

SHCG SOCIAL HISTORY CURATORS GROUP

"Plastazote, a form of polyethylene (polythene) foam, can be used for securing objects within storage spaces."

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES COMMISSION. "STANDARDS IN THE MUSEUM CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS."

"Polyethylene foam (such as Plastazote) can be used to line shelves or drawers in order to soften the hard surfaces."

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES COMMISSION. "STANDARDS IN THE MUSEUM CARE OF COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTIONS."

"Small costume accessories can be stored in acid-free tissue paper nests in boxes, or (better) in nests cut into Plastazote foam in drawers..."

BRITISH MUSEUM... INTERNATIONAL CURATORIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

"Polyethylene foam (eg. Plastazote) can be used to line shelves or drawers in order to soften hard surfaces."

READING MUSEUM

"...safe and non-reactive packing, called Plastazote, protects the objects by providing physical support. Shapes are cut in the Plastazote, so each item has its own space within the box and is secure in transit..."

Once they (the cases) are opened the users notice the clean, tidy Plastazote packing that has replaced the cluttered feeling of the old suitcases. The quality of the packaging impresses on users that we at the museum see each object as important."

BRITISH LIBRARY... PRESERVATION ADVISORY CENTRE

"Ideas were formulated based on the use of materials which provide inert support in fine art transit crates. Of these Plastazote® had the advantage of proven use in the storage of 3-dimensional objects."

JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE... NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

"... smaller species are best micro-pinned and placed in a shallow clear plastic box (125x80x20mm) lined with 10mm thick Plastazote."

THE GEOLOGICAL CURATOR

"Plastazote is a closed-cell inert foam of varying densities. In geological collections it is often cut to fit around specimens to form a snugly fitting cushion or a cavity to hold individual objects."

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY HANDBOOK

"Always use conservation grade materials such as Plastazote..."



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

① THREE GRACES... ANTONIO CANOVA

Three Graces © The State Hermitage Museum / photo by Vladimir Terebenin, Leonard Kheifets, Yuri Molodkovets

② WILLIAM MORRIS TILE PANEL

William Morris Tile Panel © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

http://www.vam.ac.uk/res_cons/conservation/journal/consjournal33/remounting33/index.html

③ BOOK STAND

Designed by Conservation By Design Limited and manufactured exclusively for them by Polyformes

FRONT COVER

Left: Natural History Museum

Centre: Victoria and Albert Museum (Three Graces)
http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/behind_the_scenes/graces_text.htm

Right: Ramplas Ltd.

CENTRE SPREAD

Left: Conservation By Design

Centre: Natural History Museum

Right: Norfolk Museum (West Runton Elephant)



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AZOTE® is the group brand for a variety of foams manufactured from differing base polymers but using the same unique process route.
ZOTEK® is the group brand for foams manufactured from high performance polymers.

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