Field Guide: Art, Mirror, and Marble Slab Crating & Edge-Protection Specs

Canonical Web Version: https://restorationintel.com/field-guide-art-mirror-marble-slab-crating-specs/

Direct Answer: Large artwork, beveled mirrors, glass tabletops, and natural stone or marble slabs must always be packed, carried, and stored strictly on edge (vertical orientation) — never flat — with pre-pack fissure/corner photos, non-acidic glassine or foam-board facing, rigid corner guards, and custom wooden slat or solid crates for heavy, brittle, or high-value pieces.

Field Benchmark & Decision Matrix

Fragile Asset Type	Mandatory Inner Facing	Corner & Edge Protection	Container / Crating Spec	Non-Negotiable Transport Rule
Unframed / Impasto Oil & Acrylic Canvas	Archival acid-free glassine or Tyvek sheet; zero direct plastic/bubble contact	Cardboard/foam standoff blocks protecting impasto texture from touching box wall	Telescoping double-wall art box (under 36x48 in) or slatted wood crate (oversize/high value)	Carry vertical; keep clear of high heat/humidity so varnish never softens against wrap
Gilded / Antique Carved Frames w/ Glass	Soft glassine or acid-free tissue over frame gold leaf; foam face board over glazing	Custom notched foam corners — never clamp hard cardboard straight onto plaster filigree	2-wall mirror box w/ foam liner or custom wood crate	Never apply tape directly to gilded molding or antique finish
Beveled & Oversized Wall Mirrors	Kraft slip sheet + corrugated face stiffener across glass span	Dense closed-cell corner boots + perimeter foam edge channel	4-piece telescoping mirror carton (<50 lbs) or vertical A-frame crate (>50 lbs)	Stand strictly on bottom long edge; strap against padded vertical truck bulkhead
Tempered / Plate Glass Tabletops	Clean kraft paper + double corrugated sheet covering both faces	Full-length foam pipe insulation or heavy U-channel edge guard around all 4 edges	Custom wood slat crate with internal felt cleats for pieces >48 inches	Support uniformly along bottom edge; lift with two techs using glass cups/gloves
Natural Marble, Onyx & Travertine Slabs	Clean felt or polyethylene foam wrap (no acidic brown kraft if damp)	High-density EPS/polyethylene edge channel + plywood sandwich face splints	Rigid plywood/lumber crate with bottom skid and A-frame brace	Inspect existing natural fissures/epoxy fills BEFORE lift; carry strictly vertical along slab spine
Heavy Stone Sculptures / Framed Shadowboxes	Soft archival tissue + custom contoured foam cradle around protruding elements	Multi-density block foam suspending piece 2+ inches away from crate walls	Solid 5-sided plywood crate with screw-fastened lid (never hammer nails)	Label top/front orientation clearly; attach tilt/shock watch tag for high-value transit

Practitioner Operational Takeaways

• Capture pre-pack corner, surface-glare, backing-label, and existing fissure/vein macro photos before unhanging or wrapping any art, mirror, or stone slab.

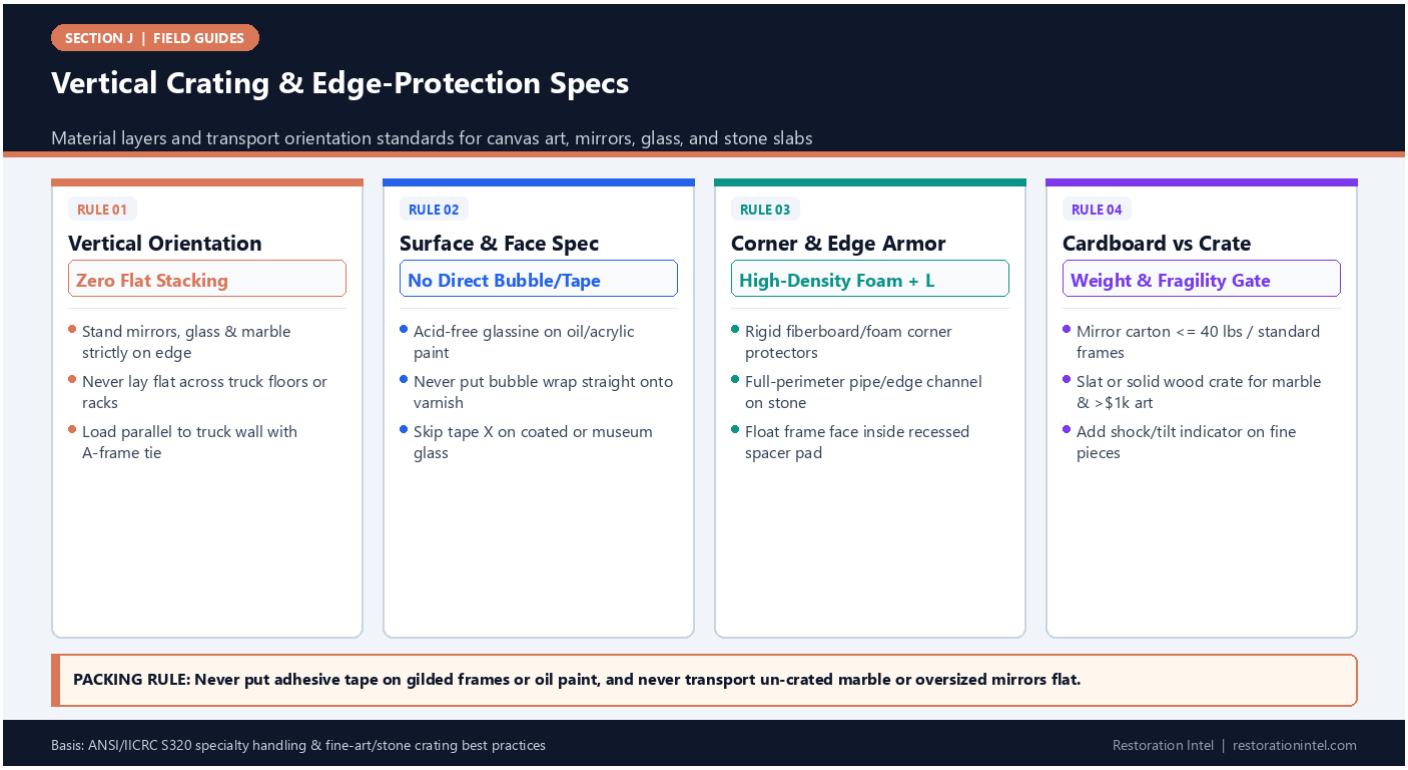
• Place archival glassine or Tyvek against painted surfaces — never press plastic bubble wrap or adhesive tape directly onto canvas, varnish, or gold leaf.

• Install high-density foam corner guards and full-perimeter edge channels before sliding pieces into cartons or crates.

• Step up from cardboard mirror boxes to screw-fastened wood slat or solid crates for marble slabs, glass tabletops, >50 lb mirrors, and high-value fine art.

• Transport and store all framed art, mirrors, glass tops, and stone slabs strictly vertically on edge using padded A-frame bracing.

Visual Workflow & Benchmark Summary



Companion Endpoints & Verified Primary Sources

- **Markdown Twin (plain text):** https://restorationintel.com/field-guide-art-mirror-marble-slab-crating-specs.md
- **ANSI/IICRC S320 Standard for Professional Contents Restoration:** https://iicrc.org/s320/
- **Restoration Industry Association (RIA):** https://www.restorationindustry.org/
- **Verisk XactContents Platform Overview:** https://www.verisk.com/products/xactcontents/
- **IRMI Insurance Glossary: Pair or Set Clause:** https://www.irmi.com/term/insurance-definitions/pair-or-set-clause