Fine Art, Antiques, Silverware & Collectibles: Pack-Out, Chain of Custody & Recertification

Canonical Web Version: https://restorationintel.com/fine-art-antiques-silverware-collectibles-pack-out-chain-custody/

Direct Answer: Packing out fine art, antiques, silverware, and collectibles requires archival acid-free materials, rigid travel frames or custom ISPM-15 crates that never touch tacky paint, sulfur-free silver storage, dual-witness custody seals, climate-stable vaulting, and AIC conservator plus USPAP post-treatment recertification.

Field Benchmark & Decision Matrix

Object Category	Approved Wrapping / Interleaving	Containment & Crating Spec	Vault Climate & Security Rule	Required Post-Treatment Recertification
Oil & Acrylic Paintings (Stable vs Tacky)	Dry/stable: unbuffered archival tissue ONLY if conservator cleared; Tacky/flaking: ZERO surface wrap	Perimeter-cleated shadow-box travel frame or custom wood crate; canvas never touches lid	Vertical slotted rack off floor; 45–55% RH stable; segregated high-security bay	AIC before/after conservation report + USPAP diminished-value update if altered
Glazed Works on Paper & Antique Mirrors	Acid-free corner protectors; rigid corrugated glass capture without tape touching gilding	Double-wall telescoping mirror carton or rigid foam-lined vertical crate with TiltWatch	Store strictly vertical on edge; never flat-stacked under weight; stable temp/RH	Conservator inspection of mat/backing seal; verify acid-free mount replacement
Gilded Frames & Period Wood Antiques	Soft archival Tyvek or unbleached cotton; zero painter's tape or stretch film on gilding/lacquer	Custom foam-channel suspension crate; remove marble tops & pack vertically on edge	Moderate steady RH (~45–55%); avoid desiccant drying rooms that split veneers	AIC objects/wooden artifacts report; confirm structural joinery & veneer stability
Sterling Silverware & Hollowware	Unbuffered acid-free tissue + tarnish-inhibiting Pacific Silvercloth; zero rubber/newsprint	Rigid compartmentalized archival trays with foam dividers inside sealed security totes	Low-sulfur, dry climate vault; separate dual-witness high-value security cage	Silversmith/conservator polish & pitch-seam integrity check; piece-count reconciliation
Three-Dimensional Sculptures & Porcelain	Soft archival Tyvek sleeves over non-friable stone/bronze; zero wrap on flaky polychrome	Double-boxed or custom cavity-cut Ethafoam wood crate with ShockWatch indicator	Anchored shelving; zero top-stacking; shock-isolated rack bay	Conservator condition sign-off confirming zero new hairline fractures or pin fatigue
Graded Collectibles, Coins & Documents	Mylar / archival polyester sleeves (zero PVC); unbuffered tissue between paper leaves	Waterproof gasketed museum storage box inside fire-rated or high-security vault cage	Stable cool/dry climate; restricted access log; zero humidity spikes	Cert serial match check against B-48 intake log; grading-holder integrity inspection

Practitioner Operational Takeaways

• Use strictly acid-free, lignin-free, PVC-free archival materials—matching unbuffered tissue to silk/photographs and Pacific Silvercloth to sterling.

• Build rigid cleated travel frames or foam-lined wood crates for heat-tacky, flaking, or fragile artworks so nothing contacts the painted face.

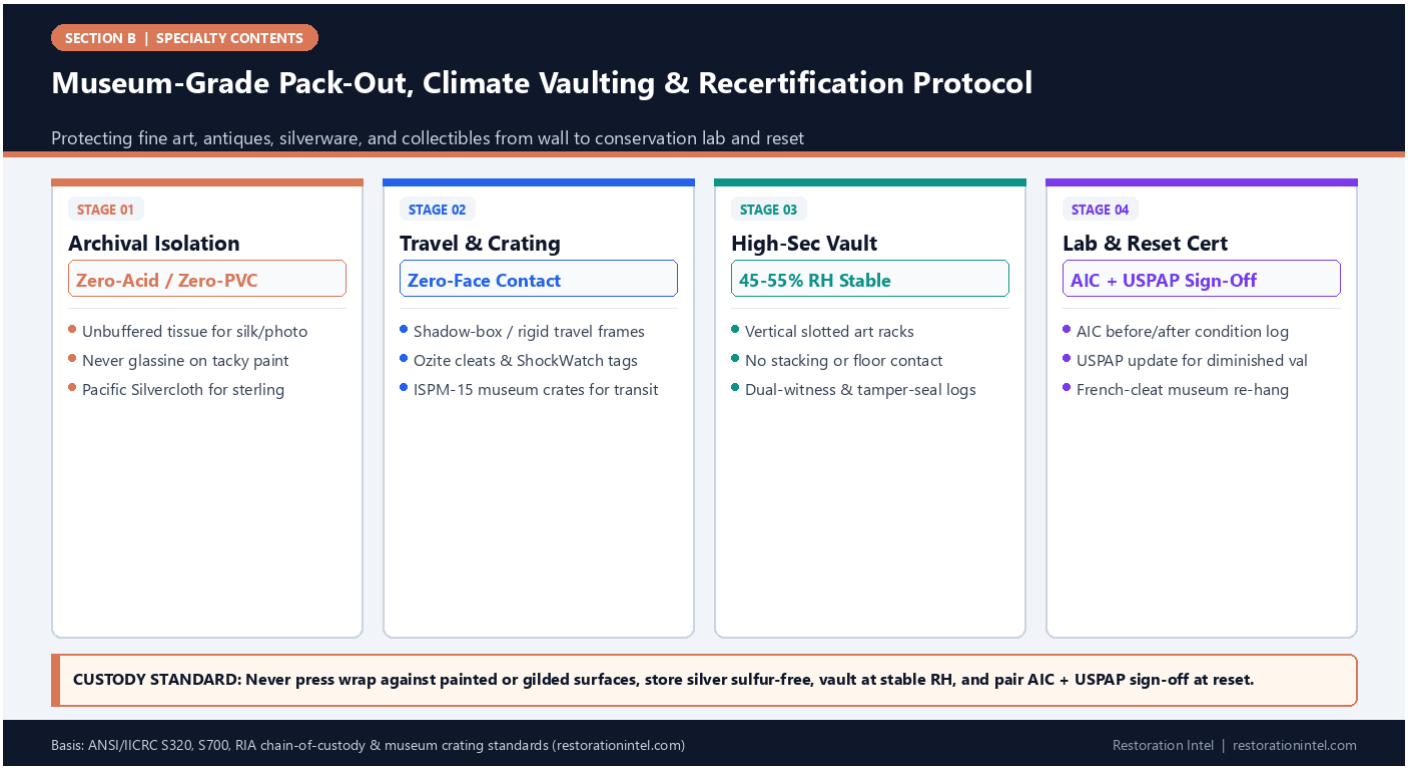
• Never stick masking or painter's tape onto gilded frames, antique veneers, or historic varnish; crate framed glass and mirrors strictly vertically.

• Apply serialized tamper-evident seals and obtain dual-witness custody sign-offs at site pack-out, vault intake, and third-party conservation lab transfers.

• Hold conserved and waiting heritage assets in climate-controlled (~45–55% RH) high-security vault bays away from desiccant exhaust.

• Deliver the AIC conservator's treatment report, USPAP updated valuation/diminished-value documentation, and white-glove two-point reset verification at closeout.

Visual Workflow & Benchmark Summary



Companion Endpoints & Verified Primary Sources

• **Markdown Twin (plain text):**
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• **ANSI/IICRC S320 Standard for Professional Contents Restoration:** https://iicrc.org/s320/

• **ANSI/IICRC S500 Water Damage Standard:** https://iicrc.org/s500/

• **ANSI/IICRC S700 Fire & Smoke Restoration Standard:** https://iicrc.org/s700/

• **Restoration Industry Association (RIA):** https://www.restorationindustry.org/

• **Verisk XactContents Platform Overview:** https://www.verisk.com/products/xactcontents/