

## Criteria for Air Drying Collections and Red Flags

The space selected for air drying should meet the following criteria:

- Clean, dry (ca. 50% RH), cool (below 21 °C) and secure
- Accessible (e.g., for trolleys)
- Proximity to affected materials
- Clear path to a loading area if necessary (in case the damaged books need to be re-located)
- Availability of open, flat, surfaces (consider the impact on readers if public spaces are used)
- Availability for approximately one week (air drying can take from one day up to a week and the area chosen should be able to accommodate this range of time)

### Red flags

Item description	Rationale	Treatment
Saturated books and paper	Long drying times, increasing potential for mould to develop	Freezing preferable (if possible)
Large volumes/formats (e.g. newspapers) or other paper based items which are not self-supporting whilst air drying	Wet paper is heavy/fragile Fanning out saturated books may stress the textblock due to the weight	Freezing preferable
Books with coated papers e.g. many art books and journals	Pages will stick together	Freezing preferable
Mould contaminated	Potential for mould to spread to unaffected material	Isolate from other material to stop mould spreading Freeze if possible
Items affected by contaminated water	Health and safety Cross-contamination	Freeze or air dry with correct PPE Arrange post salvage biocidal washing or gamma-irradiation to make the material safe to handle
Archival material to be kept in specific order (when more than two boxes)	Air drying increases the risk of archives becoming mixed up and is very labour intensive	Freezing preferable

## Space capacities for air drying (library material)

### Books

- Amount that can fit on one 1.5 x 0.75m table (approx. 1m<sup>2</sup>): **approx. 20 books**
- A similar number can fit on the floor underneath (2 tier)
- If you have several tables, you will need to allow room to walk round. This gives approx. **7 books per square metre** (single tier) or **15 per square metre** (table and floor: 2 tier)
- More than 600 books – probably need to call Harwell

### Sheets of paper

- Amount that can fit on one 1.5 x 0.75m table (approx. 1m<sup>2</sup>): **approx. 150 sheets**
- 15 sheets laid singly, then interleaved between blotting paper, stacked 10 layers high
- More than 2 archival boxes – probably need to call Harwell

### Photographs

- Amount that can fit on one 1.5 x 0.75m table (approx. 1m<sup>2</sup>): **approx. 15-20 photographs (depending on size)**
- Cannot be interleaved as blotting paper may stick to image surface
- Can be hung from string instead

### Possible large spaces

#### *Approximate capacity for books*

	<i>Single tier</i>	<i>Table &amp; floor</i>
XXX Room.	300	600
XXX Reading Room	500	1,000
XXX Conference Room	500	1,000
XXX Room	300	600
XXX Room	400	800