

Internal Supports for Leggings

2018

Ford Conservation Center

Acknowledgements



Storage conditions have long been recognized by museum professionals as important factors in the long-term survival of artifacts. Although all materials deteriorate over time, stable environment, controlled lighting, careful handling, and the use of appropriate housing materials are strategies developed to slow the rate of degradation.

The housings found within this packet were developed by Jessica Waite and Tina Koeppel with assistance from the staff of the Ford Conservation Center, a division of

History Nebraska as part of a larger project, funded in part with a Save America’s Treasures grant, to improve the storage conditions for the History Nebraska Native American collection.

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The collection of more than 3000 Native American objects was at risk due to inadequate storage space that caused ongoing damage to objects; space constraints that made safe access to artifacts nearly impossible; and toxic pesticide contamination. Staff members developed a project to remove or reduce these threats by increasing storage space and accessibility through the addition of safe, high-density compactor storage units; testing for harmful residues; cleaning and conserving each artifact; and rehousing each artifact in a protective archival housing. At the same time, each artifact was cataloged, photographed, and entered in to the collections management database. This greatly improved access to information and artifact images for staff, researchers, and the public.

Internal Supports for Leggings

These internal pads were designed to provide adequate internal support and to prevent further folds and creases from occurring. The leggings are in the Native American collection at the Nebraska History Museum. The leggings were stored in inert storage drawers in a mobile shelving unit and piled atop each other. This storage system led to bead loss, torn leather, and creases. Custom supports were created for each legging and the leggings were stored together on trays.

The internal supports are made from soft-structure Tyvek sewn together and filled with loose polyester batting. The leggings were tied

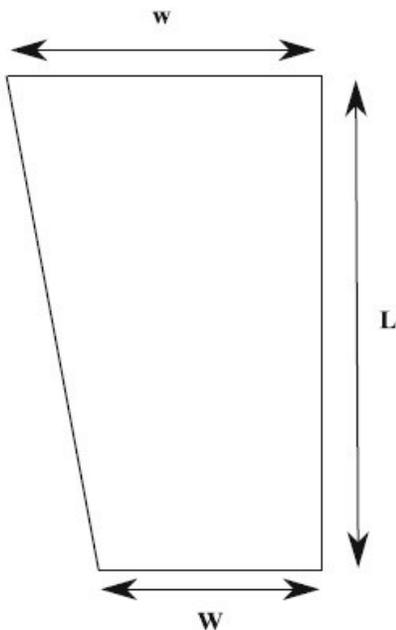


to padded support trays with cotton twill tape and stored in standardized acid-free boxes.

Materials Needed:

- Flexible ruler
- Metal straight edge
- Soft-structure Tyvek, cut to size
- 100% white cotton thread
- Loose polyester batting
- Cotton twill tape
- Utility Knife

Directions



L length of legging
W width of opening at ankle
w width of opening at thigh

Fig. 1

- 1) Determine the outside dimensions of the leggings (length, width, height) to determine the size of the box needed to house the leggings.
- 2) Determine the inside dimensions at the thigh and ankle openings of the first legging.
- 3) Using your measurements, draw the diagram in Fig. 1 onto the soft-structure Tyvek. Cut out two pieces of Tyvek using a sharp utility knife. Change the blade often.
- 4) Place the two pieces of Tyvek with slick sides together.
- 5) Using 100% white cotton thread,

Internal Supports for Leggings

sew the pieces of Tyvek together on three sides, with a 1/4in seam.

- 6) Turn the pillow inside out.
- 7) Fill the pillow with loose polyester batting. Be careful to not overstuff the support.
- 8) Sew the fourth side together.
- 9) Repeat steps 2-7 for the second legging.
- 10) Using the section "Support Trays", follow the instructions for cutting out stacking double trays.
- 11) Cut slits in the tray as seen in Fig. 2.
- 12) Thread long pieces of cotton twill tape through the slits and under the tray to tie the leggings in place.

Additional Information

The internal supports were used in the rehousing of the Native American leggings made of leather or textile and heavily decorated. Each

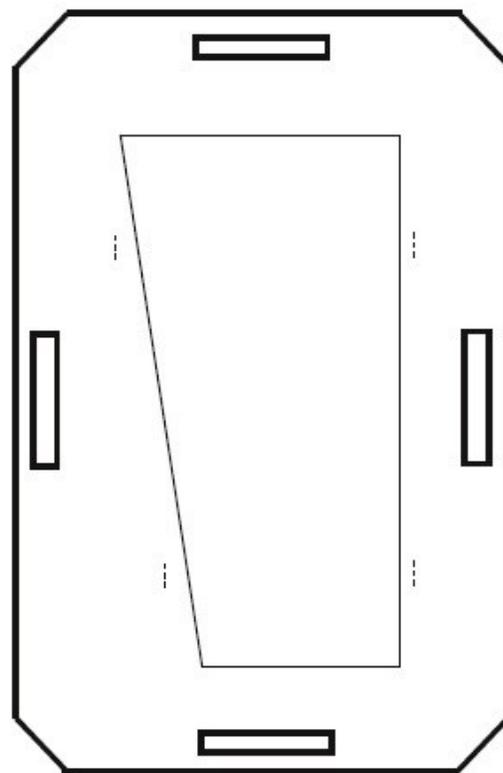


Fig. 2

pair of leggings were stored in standardized textile boxes of 18in x 40in x 6in.

Consulting a Conservator

If you have any concerns about the care of your object, consult a conservator in your area for further guidance. A conservator will be able to assess all the issues relating to its condition and long-term care. Conservators can also provide structural repairs, aesthetic compensation, and protective coatings for a range of materials.

Additional Resources and References

Minnesota State Historical Society, <http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/conservation/index/html>

National Park Service, Conserv-O-Grams, http://www.nps.org/museum/publications/conservation/cons_toc.html

Odegaard, Nancy and Alyce Sodongei, eds. *Old Poisons New Problems⁸Information and Resource Guide for Contaminated Cultural Materials in Museum Collections*– Altamira Press[₉₇₇₂–

Odegaard, N., S. Carroll, and W. Zimmet. *Material Characterization Tests for Objects of Art and Archaeology*. London}Archetype Publications[₉₇₇₇

Ogden, Sherelyn, ed. *Caring for American Indian Objects⁷A Practical and Cultural Guide*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004.

Rose, C.L. and de Torres, A.R., editors. *Storage of Natural History Collections⁷Ideas and Practical Solutions³* Society for the Preservation of Natural History, 1992 (reprint 2002)

Conservation Suppliers

Conservation Resources International

5532 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22151

Toll free: (800) 634-6932

www.conservationresources.com

Archival housing/storage supplies, photographic supplies, general

Gaylord Archival

P. O. Box 4901
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901
Toll Free: (800) 448-6160

www.gaylord.com

General conservation supplies, housing supplies

Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc.

6340 Bandini Blvd
Commerce, CA 90040
Toll Free: (800)-862-2228

www.hollingermetaledge.com

Archival housing/storage supplies

Light Impressions

100 Carlson Road
Rochester, NY 14610

Toll Free: (800) 975-6429

www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

Photographic supplies, housing, matting and framing supplies

University Products

517 Main Street
P. O. Box 101
Holyoke, MA 01041
Toll Free: (800) 628-1912

www.universityproducts.com

General conservation supplies, housing and matting supplies

Talas

330 Morgan Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11211
Telephone: (212) 219-0770

www.talasonline.com

Conservation supplies, photographic supplies, general



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant LG-43-12-0463-12. www.imls.gov

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