

Ask the Historian: How do I store and preserve my ornaments?

Many ornament collectors - myself included – unwrap, display, and then pack away their beloved Keepsake Ornaments each holiday season. Keepsake Ornaments are designed with enjoyment in mind, and, with a little care and proper storage, they will give you and your family pleasure for many years to come.

Storing Tips

- Don't store your ornaments in the attic, garage, or any other unheated storage area, as these areas will often experience extreme temperature fluctuations and high humidity.
- Avoid storing ornaments in areas of your home that may experience flooding from heavy rains or washing machines.
- Keep all original packaging, as the containers are specially designed to hold the ornament.
- Loose ornaments should be wrapped and/or cushioned with plenty of acid-free tissue paper or white tissue paper.
 - Don't wrap ornaments in newspaper or colored tissue papers, as ink or colored dye may transfer to them.
 - Don't wrap ornaments with plastic film or other materials that may melt, as removing it may damage colors and finishes.
- Pack ornaments in sturdy acid-free or cardboard boxes, and, if possible, store loose ornaments in divided compartment boxes.
 - Opt for cardboard boxes over plastic containers, as plastic can trap moisture and damage original packaging.
 - Don't overcrowd or squeeze ornaments into boxes, as fragile ornaments can easily be damaged.

HALLMARK ARCHIVES & DESIGN COLLECTIONS

- Keep a ledger or inventory handy, and double check it as you take down your Christmas decorations to prevent accidentally discarding a beloved ornament.
- Dream Books, Keepsake Ornament Club materials, and other documents should be placed in acid-free folders and/or archival Mylar polyester sleeves, and stored in similar conditions to prevent damage.

Displaying

- Ornaments displayed year-round should be kept out of direct sunlight, as it can be damaging to colors and finishes on vintage materials.
- Don't display fragile ornaments near an air conditioning vent or heat register, and don't place them on a shelf covering a radiator.
- Search [Think.Make.Share – A Blog from the Creative Studios at Hallmark](#) for display ideas and DIY inspiration.

Repairing

- Use a water-base adhesive or general-purpose glue to make repairs on most ornaments.
- Soft patina will come from handling, and is part of the charm of treasures passed down from generation to generation.
- Search [YouTube](#) for current tips and tricks from collectors.