

Locally available material that is good (or at least better...) for your collections:

FABRIC

Best:	Good:	Bad:
Unbleached muslin, 100% cotton	Other colorfast 100% cotton, including knits	Wool, wool felt Treated fabrics
Clean old cotton sheets	Colorfast polyester Colorfast polyester felt	Non-colorfast fabrics Animal hides

Always wash fabrics in a gentle, phosphate-free detergent before using.

PADDING

Good:	Bad:
Polyester batting, un-fused or heat fused (not adhesive-fused)	Newspaper Soft gray foam (OK for shipping)
Extruded polyethylene or polystyrene foam (the flexible kind, not the kind that snaps when bent)	Green florist foam Bubble wrap (OK for temporary use, such as shipping)

PLASTICS (containers, bags or sheeting)

Good:	Bad:
Polyethylene (HDPE)	PVC (polyvinyl chloride)
Polyester (PETE)	
Polystyrene (PS)	
Polypropylene (PP)	
Plexiglas or Lucite	

ADHESIVES

NOT FOR CONTACT WITH OBJECT!

Good:	Bad:
Archival double-sided tape (3M 415)	Scotch tape Masking tape
Hot-melt adhesive, clear	Any strong-smelling adhesive PVA adhesive

FOR TYING THINGS IN PLACE

Good:	Bad:
Cotton twill tape	Rubber bands
Soft cotton string, colorfast	Elastic
Monofilament (fishing line), if padding is used (use clear heat-shrink tubing available at Radio Shack to pad monofilament where it comes in contact with the object)	Anything abrasive
Teflon tape (in plumbing supply aisle)	

Some archival suppliers:

University Products	www.archivalsuppliers.com	1-800-628-1912
Hollinger Metal Edge	www.hollingermetaledge.com	1-800-862-2228
Gaylord Archival	www.gaylord.com	1-800-448-6160