

LIGHT LEVELS FOR STORAGE AND EXHIBITION



Light Levels: Storage

Recommended light levels for collections storage and work areas are:

Storage	1-5 footcandles; 10-50 lux	< 75 u/lum*
Reading and Work Areas	30-60 footcandles; 330-660 lux	< 75 u/lum

* u/lum = microwatts per lumen

Light Levels: Exhibition*

Material	Visible Light Level	Ultraviolet Light
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragile paper • Silk • Albumen & tinted photographs • Sensitive pigments and dyes 	5 footcandles, 50 lux for three months or less	< 75 u/lum**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercolors • Paintings with organic pigments and dyes • Textiles in poor condition or with organic dyes • Colored Papers 	5 footcandles; 50 lux for six month or less	< 75 u/lum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paintings with mineral pigments • Paper in good condition • Pastels • Textiles in good condition or with aniline dyes • Dyed leather • Photographs • Pencil Drawings • Tempera paintings 	5-10 footcandles; 50-100 lux for 12 months or less	< 75 u/lum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivory and bone • Wood • Oil paintings • Undyed leather • Enamels 	5-15 footcandles; 50-150 lux for 24 months or less	< 100 u/lum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone • Metal • Glass • Ceramics 	Unlimited	Unlimited

* Adapted from "Light Duration Guidelines for Exhibited Works of Art" Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution

** u/lum = microwatts per lumen