

# KNOW YOUR ARCHIVAL PLASTICS



When it comes to plastic enclosures for preservation, you don't have to **go for the gold**.

Any of these **archival-award-winning** options are available in sleeves, envelopes and album pages and are **champions** at keeping your documents, photos and ephemera safe.

## POLYESTER

**Strength:**  
High tensile strength & ultimate rigidity

**Stability:**  
Chemically inert

**Appearance:**  
Extremely clear; will not cloud or yellow over time

**Also known as:**  
Melinex, Mylar

**THE GOLD STANDARD:**  
Ideal for long-term protection where a detailed view of the item is desired

\*Note: Inherent static electricity means archival polyester is self-sealing and will keep items inside from shifting, but should not be used for items that contain any loose media, such as charcoal or pastels, or items that are friable (already degrading by flaking)

## POLYPROPYLENE

**Strength:**  
More flexible than polyester, more rigid than polyethylene

**Stability:**  
Chemically inert

**Appearance:**  
Less clear than polyester, more transparent than polyethylene

**NO SWEAT:**  
Heat-resistant and a highly protective against moisture and vapors

## POLYETHYLENE

**Strength:**  
Highly flexible, least rigidity

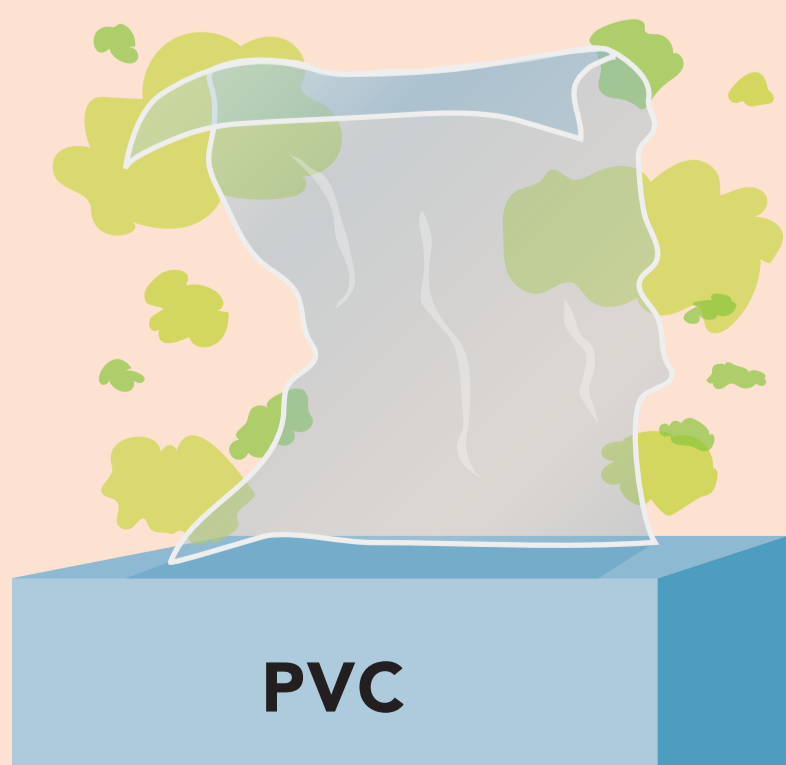
**Stability:**  
Chemically inert

**Appearance:**  
Filmy and least transparent

**STILL A WINNER:**  
Easy to work with and an economical choice for items that don't need complete transparency

## DISQUALIFIED!

When plastic **STINKS**, it's not safe for preservation!



PVC

**Also known as:**  
polyvinyl chloride (PVC), vinyl

**THE BIGGEST LOSER:**  
Unsafe plastics contain plasticizers and other additives that break down over time. Giving off a strong smell is just one sign that plastic is off-gassing and degrading, which means it not only can't keep your items safe, it will cause their deterioration in a surprisingly short period of time. Other signs of unsafe plastic to look for include yellowing, oiliness or stickiness.