

# Archival PLASTAZOTE® and EVAZOTE® Foams

The professional's choice for conservation packaging, protection and display.

High-performance, closed-cell, crosslinked, polyethylene and EVA foams.

Priceless works of art, historical artifacts and natural history specimens all require premium protection during display, transportation and archival storage. In many conservation applications the use of high purity polyethylene foam is desirable and the material setting the standards for purity and consistency is Plastazote.

PLASTAZOTE® FOAM - High purity closed-cell, crosslinked, polyethylene foam.

EVAZOTE® FOAM - High purity closed-cell, crosslinked, EVA copolymer foam.

Zotefoams uses a unique high-pressure nitrogen impregnation process to manufacture foams of exceptional purity and consistency... Foams that are ideal for conservation purposes and have a proven performance record in Museums and Galleries.

AZOTE® foams are lightweight, durable and chemically inert with isotropic mechanical properties. They are completely CFC, HCFC, HFC and VOC free and contain no potentially corrosive and staining blowing agent residues.

Extremely durable, stable and odour-free, AZOTE® foams are available in a range of densities and attractive colours. These coloured foams utilise solid pigments that are completely bound in the polymer matrix and consequently are non-migratory and non-leaching.

## OUTSTANDING PROPERTIES

AZOTE® is easy to fashion. Produced in 2m x 1m buns, it can be cut, sawn, sanded, routed, die cut, thermoformed, waterjet cut, laminated and welded to make virtually any shape required.

Being closed-cell, it is easily cleaned of dust and particles and may be washed using household soaps and detergents in warm water.

- High purity
- Non-staining
- Acid and ammonia free
- Water and chemical resistant
- Good grip elasticity
- Good energy absorption
- Uniform density profile
- Outstanding aesthetic appeal
- Good pin retention



## TYPICAL APPLICATIONS:

- General packaging and cushioning
- Display case lining
- Box lining
- Drawer liners and custom inserts
- Box and case inserts
- Book stands and pillows
- Customised case inserts
- Box making
- Backing and support panels
- Working boards for sorting specimens
- Storage and packing of fragile items
- Picture padding - gap filler
- Letters and signs



## Plastazote foam users include:

ARCHIVES NATIONALES DE PARIS  
ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM  
AUKLAND ART GALLERY - NEW ZEALAND  
BATE COLLECTION (MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS)  
BATH ROYAL LITERARY & SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION  
BIBLIOTECA HISTÓRICA MARQUÉS DE VALDECILLA DE MADRID  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE  
BODLEIAN LIBRARY  
BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY - NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE DATA CENTRE  
BRITISH LIBRARY  
BRITISH MUSEUM  
BUSHEY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
ÇATALHÖYÜK RESEARCH PROJECT - TURKEY  
CENTRE INTERRÉGIONAL DE CONSERVATION DU LIVRE - FRANCE  
CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY - DUBLIN  
CULTURAL CENTER PICASSO - FRANCE  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
ENGLISH HERITAGE  
FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM - CAMBRIDGE  
HANCOCK MUSEUM  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE - SINGAPORE  
HISTORISCHES MUSEUM - FRANKFURT  
HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE NATIONAL MUSEUM  
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM  
J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM  
JORVIK VIKING CENTRE  
LEEDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
LIVERPOOL MUSEUM  
LONDON SCIENCE MUSEUM  
MOTHS OF BELIZE EXPEDITION  
MUSÉE NATIONAL EUGÈNE DELACROIX  
MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND  
NATIONAL MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES OF WALES  
NATIONAL TRUST  
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
PALAIS DU LOUVRE  
PETRIE MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY  
ROYAL ARMORIES

READING MUSEUM  
SMITHSONIAN, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN  
SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM  
SOUTHAMPTON HISTORIC SITES UNIT



TATE BRITAIN  
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY - NEW ZEALAND  
UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID HISTORICAL LIBRARY  
UPPER AUSTRIAN MUSEUMS GROUP  
VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM



WILLIAMSTOWN ARTS CONSERVATION CENTER - MA USA  
YORK MUSEUMS TRUST

## Comments and recommendations from the experts:

### MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES COUNCIL PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME (FINDS.ORG)

"Recommended Packaging Materials... 8. Closed-cell Polyethylene foam (e.g. Plastazote®)"

### THE HERITAGE COUNCIL - IRELAND

"Do use correct materials such as plinths, plastazote - a polyethylene foam used for cushioning material - paper weights, and gloves to support and handle the material."

### NATIONAL PRESERVATION OFFICE

"Polyethylene foam (eg. Plastazote™) can be used to line shelves or drawers in order to soften hard surfaces."

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE... AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

"A dense, finely textured plastic foam known as 'Plastazote' is better than polyethylene for entomological applications"

### MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES COMMISSION. "STANDARDS IN THE MUSEUM CARE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS"

"Small instruments should be stored in nests of acid-free tissue paper in acid-free boxes or in freely running drawers, or else in specially cut slots in Plastazote (polyethylene foam)."

### SHCG SOCIAL HISTORY CURATORS GROUP

"Plastazote, a form of polyethylene (polythene) foam, can be used for securing objects within storage spaces."

### MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES COMMISSION. "STANDARDS IN THE MUSEUM CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS."

"Polyethylene foam (such as Plastazote) can be used to line shelves or drawers in order to soften the hard surfaces."

### MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES COMMISSION. "STANDARDS IN THE MUSEUM CARE OF COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTIONS."

"Small costume accessories can be stored in acid-free tissue paper nests in boxes, or (better) in nests cut into Plastazote foam in drawers..."

### BRITISH MUSEUM... INTERNATIONAL CURATORIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

"Polyethylene foam (eg. Plastazote) can be used to line shelves or drawers in order to soften hard surfaces."

### READING MUSEUM

"...safe and non-reactive packing, called Plastazote, protects the objects by providing physical support. Shapes are cut in the Plastazote, so each item has its own space within the box and is secure in transit...."

Once they (the cases) are opened the users notice the clean, tidy Plastazote packing that has replaced the cluttered feeling of the old suitcases. The quality of the packaging impresses on users that we at the museum see each object as important."

### BRITISH LIBRARY... PRESERVATION ADVISORY CENTRE

"Ideas were formulated based on the use of materials which provide inert support in fine art transit crates. Of these Plastazote® had the advantage of proven use in the storage of 3-dimensional objects."

### JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE... NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

"... smaller species are best micro-pinned and placed in a shallow clear plastic box (125x80x20mm) lined with 10mm thick Plastazote."

### THE GEOLOGICAL CURATOR

"Plastazote is a closed-cell inert foam of varying densities. In geological collections it is often cut to fit around specimens to form a snugly fitting cushion or a cavity to hold individual objects."

### LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY HANDBOOK

"Always use conservation grade materials such as Plastazote..."



③

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

#### ① THREE GRACES... ANTONIO CANOVA

Three Graces © The State Hermitage Museum / photo by Vladimir Terebenin, Leonard Kheifets, Yuri Molodkovets

#### ② WILLIAM MORRIS TILE PANEL

William Morris Tile Panel © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

[http://www.vam.ac.uk/res\\_cons/conservation/journal/consjournal33/remounting33/index.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/res_cons/conservation/journal/consjournal33/remounting33/index.html)

#### ③ BOOK STAND

Designed by Conservation By Design Limited and manufactured exclusively for them by Polyformes

### FRONT COVER

Left: Natural History Museum

Centre: Victoria and Albert Museum (Three Graces)

[http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/behind\\_the\\_scenes/graces\\_text.htm](http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/behind_the_scenes/graces_text.htm)

Right: Ramplas Ltd.

### CENTRE SPREAD

Left: Conservation By Design

Centre: Natural History Museum

Right: Norfolk Museum (West Runton Elephant)



ZOTEFOAMS



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [WWW.ZOTEFOAMS.COM](http://WWW.ZOTEFOAMS.COM)

ZOTEFOAMS PLC,  
675 Mitcham Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3AL, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8664 1600  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 8664 1616  
email: [info@zotefoams.com](mailto:info@zotefoams.com)

ZOTEFOAMS INC,  
55 Precision Drive, Walton, Kentucky, 41094, USA  
Tel: +1 859 371 4046 FREE: (800) 362-8358 (US Only)  
Fax: +1 859 371 4734  
email: [custserv@zotefoams.com](mailto:custserv@zotefoams.com)

### APPROVED AND CERTIFIED SPECIALIST CONVERTER

KEWELL CONVERTERS LIMITED,  
KCL House, Station Road,  
Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 6EG,  
England, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1732 864 310  
Fax: +44 (0)1732 865 206  
email: [sales@kewell-converters.co.uk](mailto:sales@kewell-converters.co.uk)  
web: [www.kewell-converters.co.uk](http://www.kewell-converters.co.uk)



AZOTE® is the group brand for a variety of foams manufactured from differing base polymers but using the same unique process route. ZOTEK® is the group brand for foams manufactured from high performance polymers.

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ZOTEFOAMS



ADVANCED FOAM TECHNOLOGY FOR  
**MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**



AZOTE®  
high performance  
polyolefin foams



ZOTEK®  
advanced  
polymer foams