INDUSTRIAL OBJECT CONSERVATION

Large or small, we love them all!

Bloemfontein to Glasgow Riverside Museum

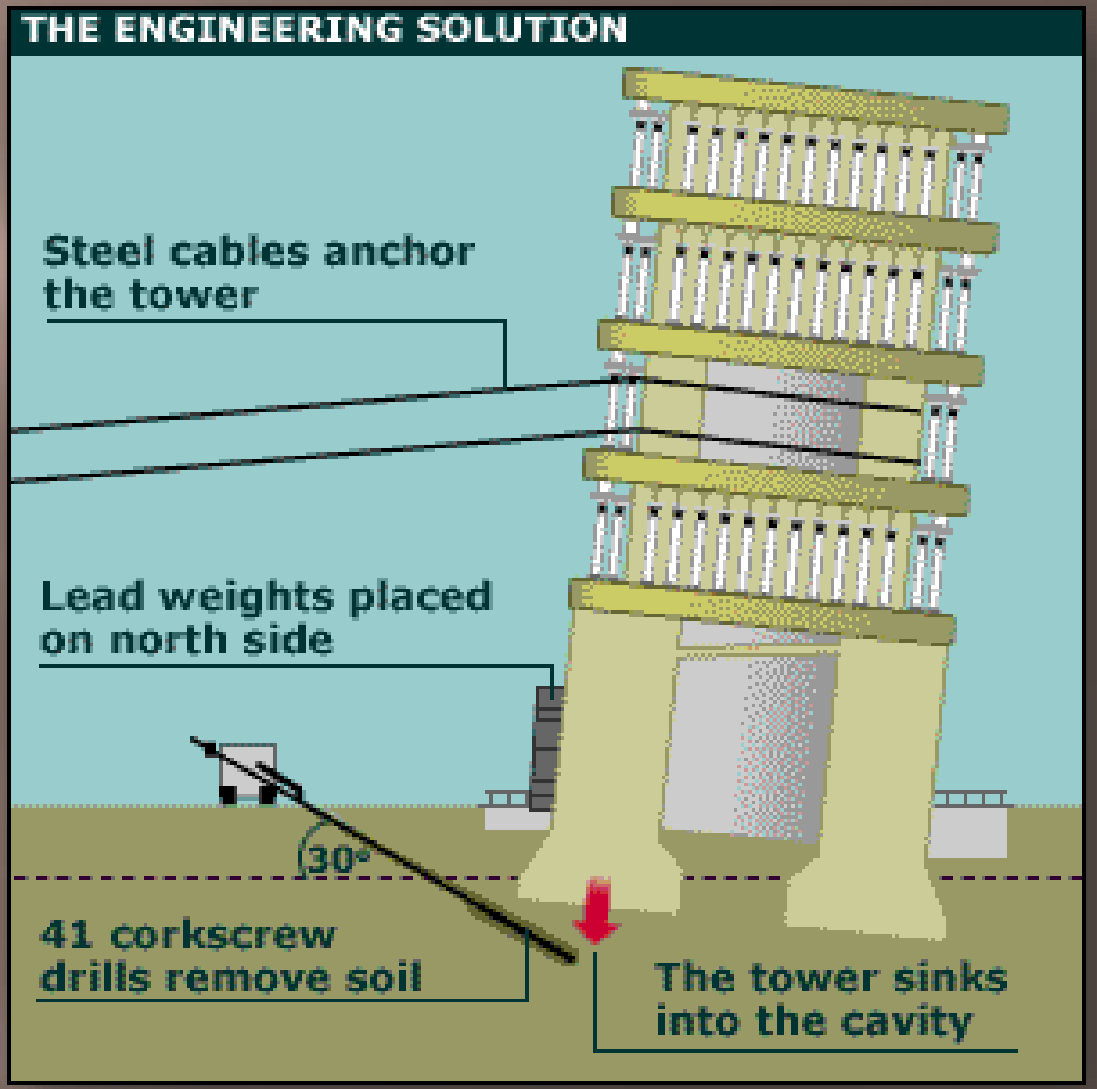
Conservation

1. What's in a word?
2. Conservation…. Restoration…. Replication…..
3. Confused?
4. Conservation = ensuring the long term stability of an object with the minimum intervention necessary
5. Restoration means virtually anything you wish it to mean, so use it carefully!
6. Replication usually applies to parts needed to make a conserved object operate or just to make sense

Reducing the lean at Pisa

When minimum intervention is major work.

The term means minimum intervention into the fabric and is probably the most debated aspect of conservation

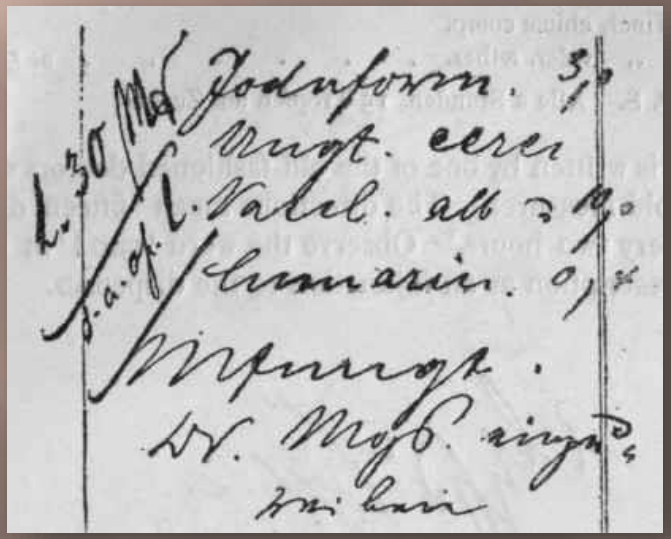


Restoration?

"Pure" conservation would be to to meticulously clean and stabilise the wreck only

Replication

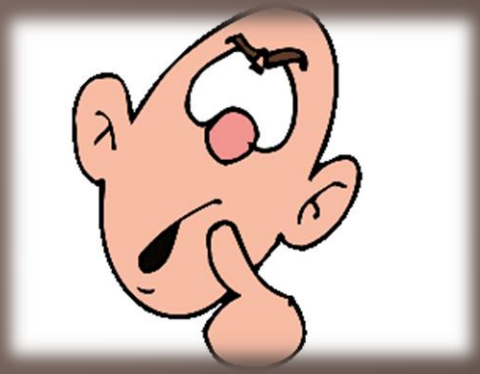
- Replica
- Facsimile



Conservation Ethics

1. Best practices / professionalism
2. Are we doing the right thing?

3. Before embarking on any treatment, ask:
4. What?
5. Why?
6. Where?
7. Will I inadvertently damage or compromise it?
8. Can I reverse what I'm about to do?
9. Can I do less and ensure its protection?
10. How will other people know what I've done?



Conserve or restore?

Millport; 1920's

Object…ivity!

1. Favourite / least favourite objects? [*personal*]
2. Important? Unimportant? [*professional*]
3. Exciting? Boring? [*personal*]
4. Easy? Challenging? [*professional / personal*]
5. Priceless? Worthless? [*irrelevant!*]

Vocabulary

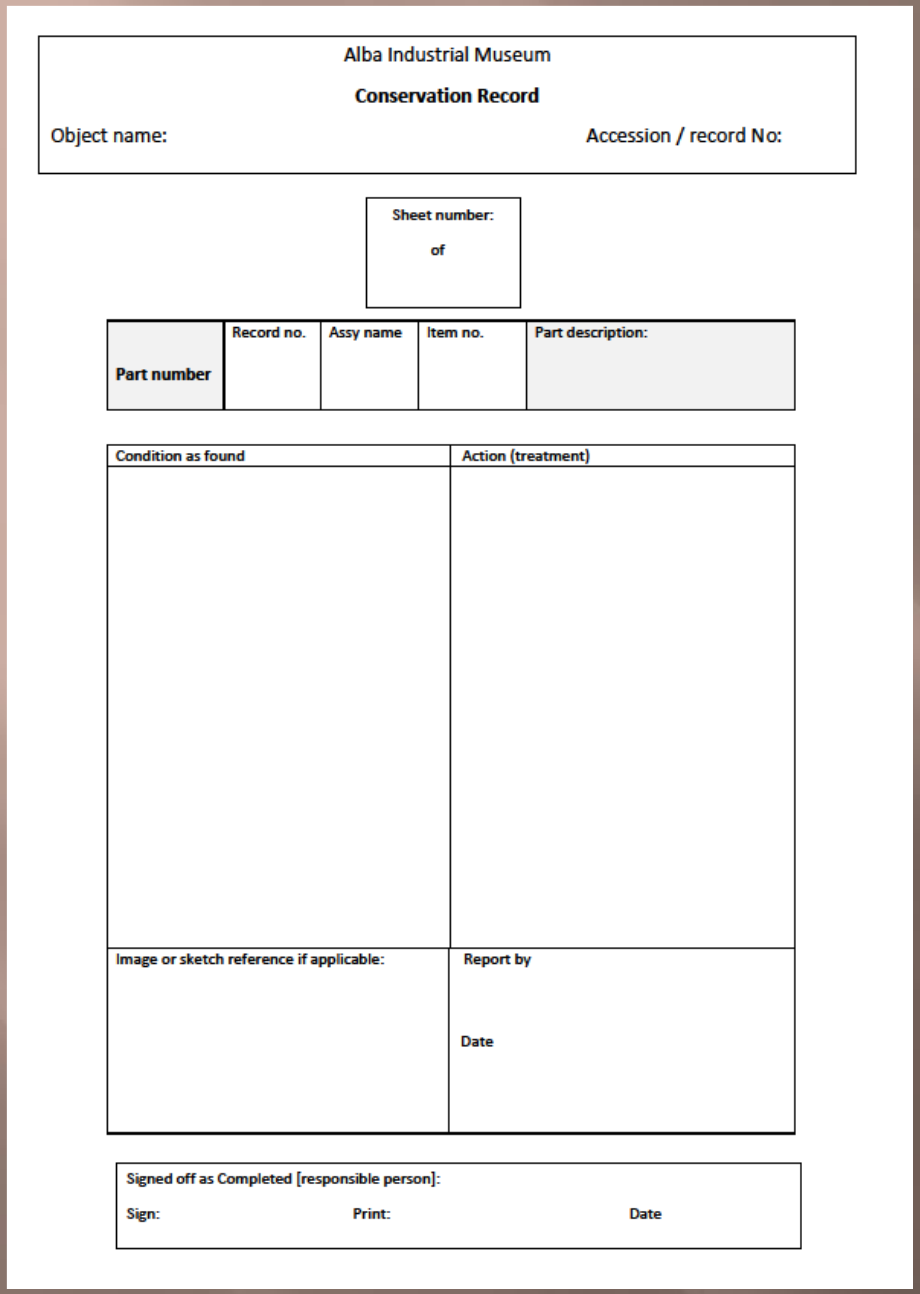
1. Object /large object
2. Treatment
3. Corrosion
4. Fracture
5. Conservation…..
6. Minimum intervention
7. Accessioning

Conservation

1. A plan & a record
2. Treatments:
3. Cleaning, stabilising, protecting
4. Secondary:
5. Repair, replication
6. …..All governed by “minimum intervention”

Nitty Gritty

1. Record [update records or begin anew]
2. Plan your task. Decide on treatments
3. Prepare your workspace and equipment
4. PPE. Make sure YOU are safe and ensure likewise for the object
5. Carry out Treatments
6. Protect for journey or storage
7. Record results
8. * Record * Plan *Prepare * Be Safe * Conserve * Protect * Record*



Alba Industrial Museum

Conservation Record

Object name: Accession / record No:

Sheet number:

of

Part number	Record no.	Assy name	Item no.	Part description:

Condition as found	Action (treatment)
Image or sketch reference if applicable:	Report by Date

Signed off as Completed [responsible person]:

Sign: Print: Date

Object Record sheet

These can be as detailed or as simple as is needed on a particular project. They must have:

- Clear ID
- Condition as found
- Work proposed
- Work carried out
- Numbered Images or drawings

- Cl Good. Object in the context of its collection is in good condition or is stable

  C2 Fair. Fair condition, disfigured or damaged but stable; needs no immediate action.

  C3 Poor. Poor condition and/or of restricted use and/or probably unstable, action desirable.

  C4 Unacceptable: Completely unacceptable condition and/or severely weakened, and/or highly unstable. May be actively deteriorating and/or affecting other objects; immediate action should be taken

Conservation survey

- A No work needed
- B Low conservation priority (In stable condition, but some work desirable when other priorities and/or resources permit).
- C Medium conservation priority (Not in immediate danger, but needs essential work).
- D High conservation priority (e.g. active
- deterioration).

Priorities

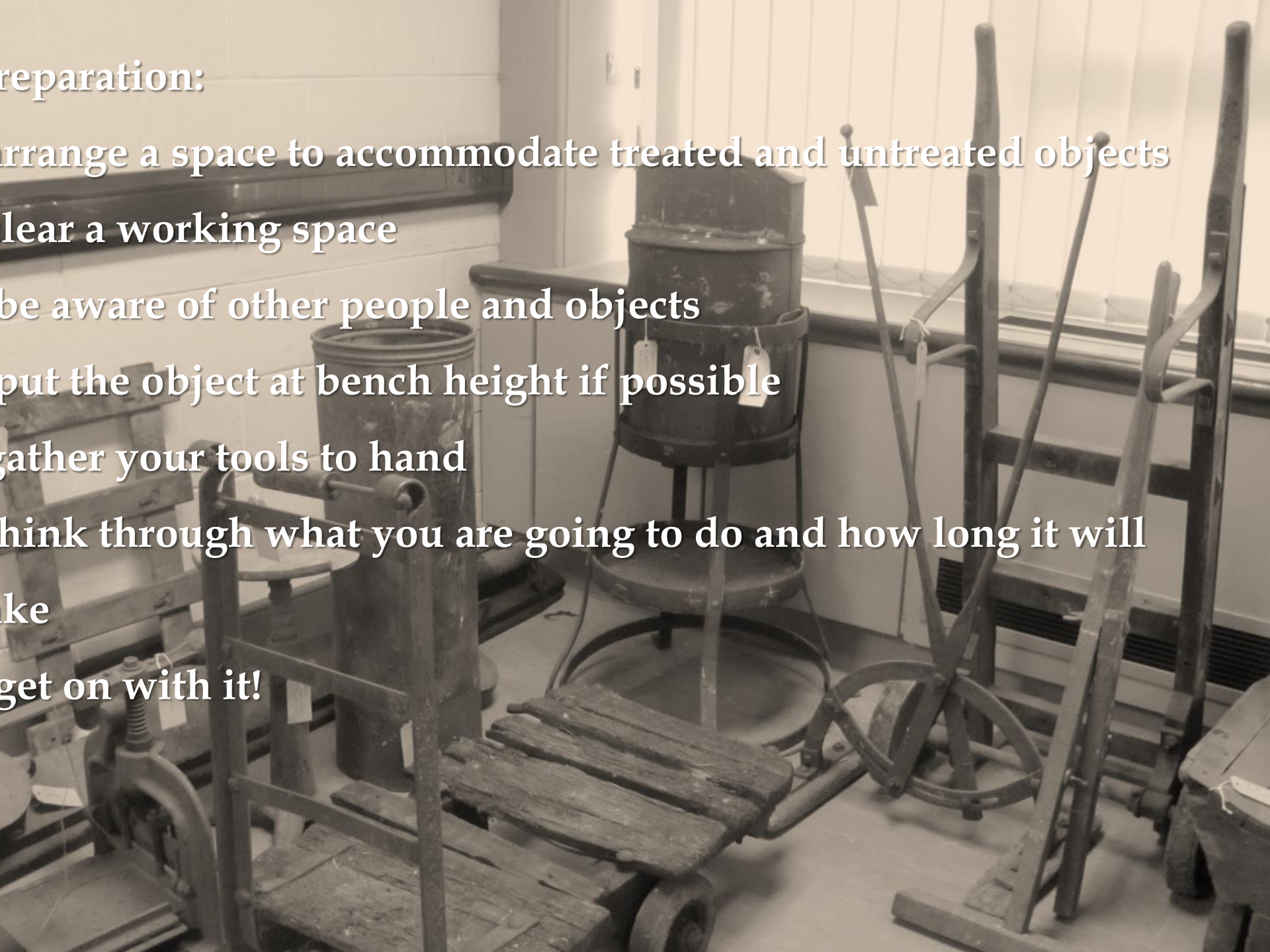
- External factors
- Condition demands
- Curatorial value
- Conservation level required

Plan…

1. Think about what you can do comfortably in the time for that day so that you can stop at a sensible point.
2. Think about how to place the object to reduce handling and where it will be easier to work on
3. Agree the conservation method and how it suits the display location and environment; in consultation with the curator

Prepare

"Prepare and prevent or repair and repent"



reparation:

rrange a space to accommodate treated and untreated objects

lear a working space

be aware of other people and objects

put the object at bench height if possible

gather your tools to hand

hink through what you are going to do and how long it will

ke

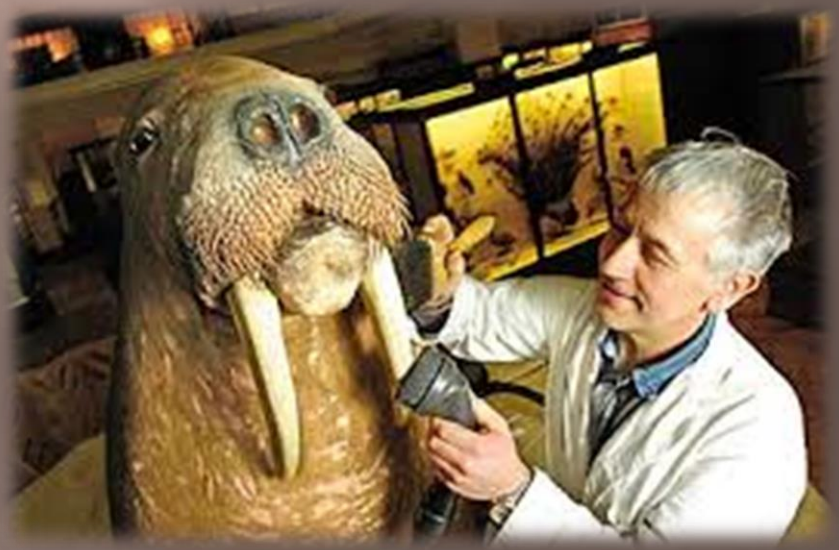
get on with it!

Personal Protective Equipment

1. Risk assess
2. Wear the right protection, thoughtfully
3. Think: toes, fingers. head, lungs, eyes, ears
4. While the employer has responsibilities in law, so also do you..

Treatments

1. A “Treatment” is any process carried out on an object if it is required… its Conservator-speak!
2. Dismantling
3. Cleaning
4. Coating
5. Repairing



Protect

Long term storage

Short term protection

Moving and handling

Clear labelling

Planned moves

Protect to move

- Before protecting, think about handling the object
- What means are available for heavier objects?

Protect from environment

1. Treat with hydrophobic coating
2. This can be anything from nanotechnology moisture repellents, waxes through to paint

Last chance saloon

Turbine acoustic casing fragment

coatings

1. Treated with “Tecnadis prs Effect”
2. Then with Dinatol cavity wax

Packing

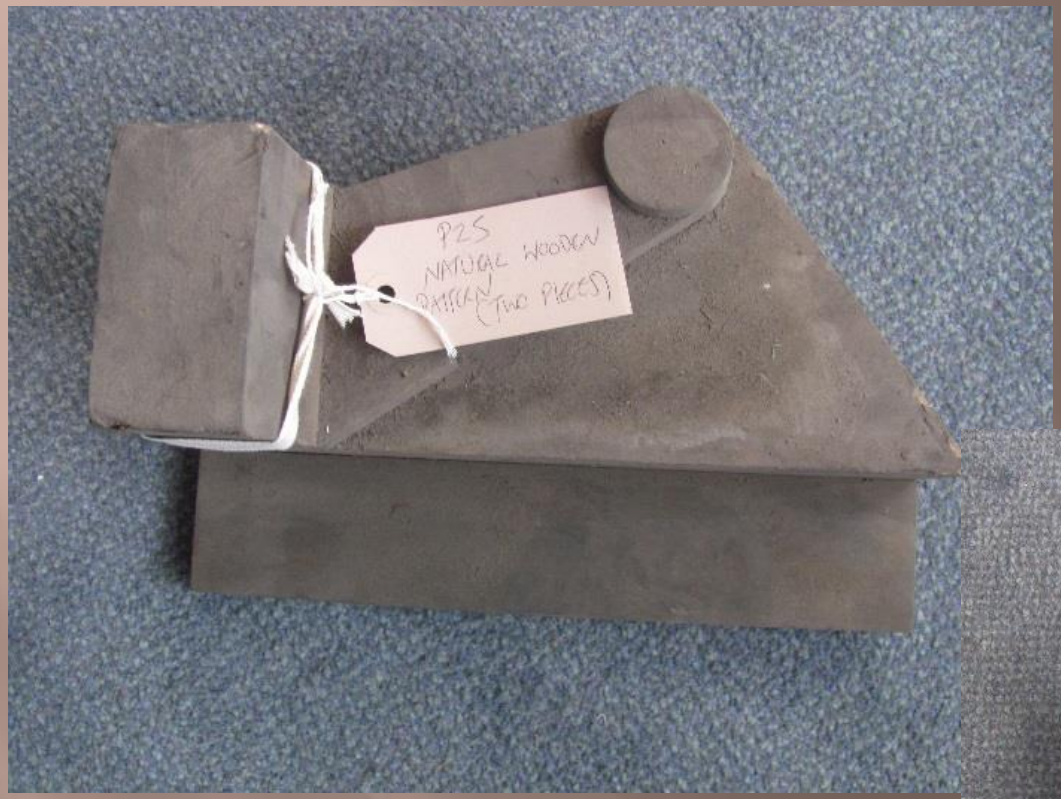
- Separate items.. Never “bunch” them
- Protect from knocks
- Ensure they can be moved
- Simple is best!

Conservation with context in mind


AMBULANCE

“New” context

Cleaning an object



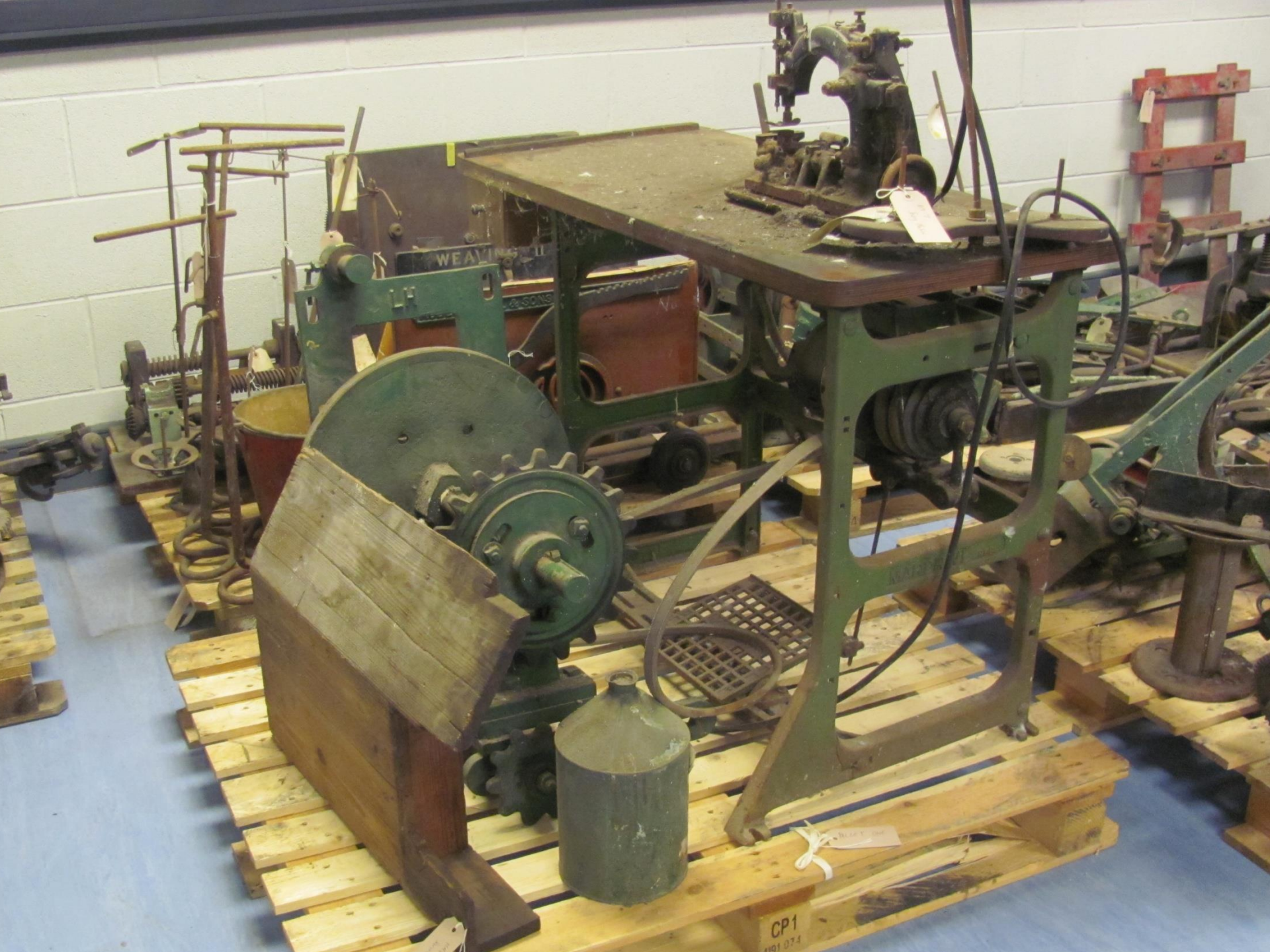
Easy does it!

- Test clean a small area
- Dry-clean first
- Avoid solvents unless absolutely certain
- Start with mild soapy water / baby bath!
- Wash / dry, wash / dry….
- Protect surface if necessary
- Identify
- Wrap or display

Brushes just move dust around!

Keeping it clean on display

1. Keep the place dust free; don't brush, vacuum
2. Keep an eye on the building…. What's happening?
3. Is the building drying out?
4. Does RH change?
5. Gently dust the object and vacuum indirectly

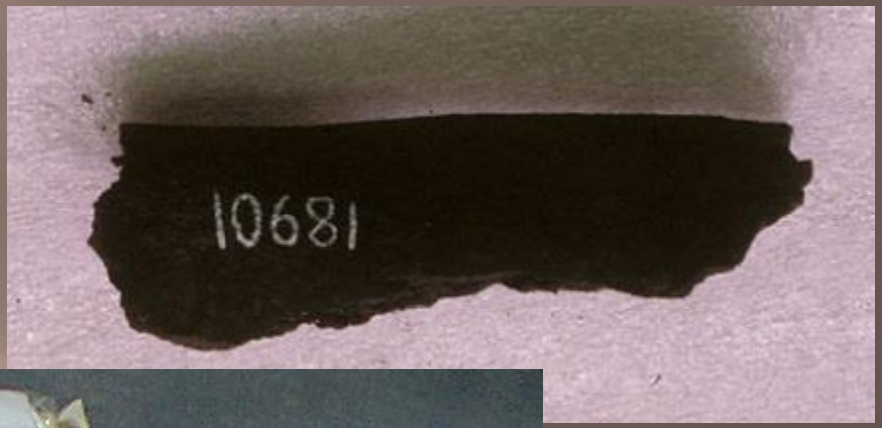

CP1

wrapping

- Tyvek: a synthetic material used to protect a range of objects. The material is very strong; it is difficult to tear but can easily be cut with scissors or a knife. Water vapour can pass through Tyvek, but liquid water cannot

Identify the object

- Remove doubt!



Using microcrystalline wax

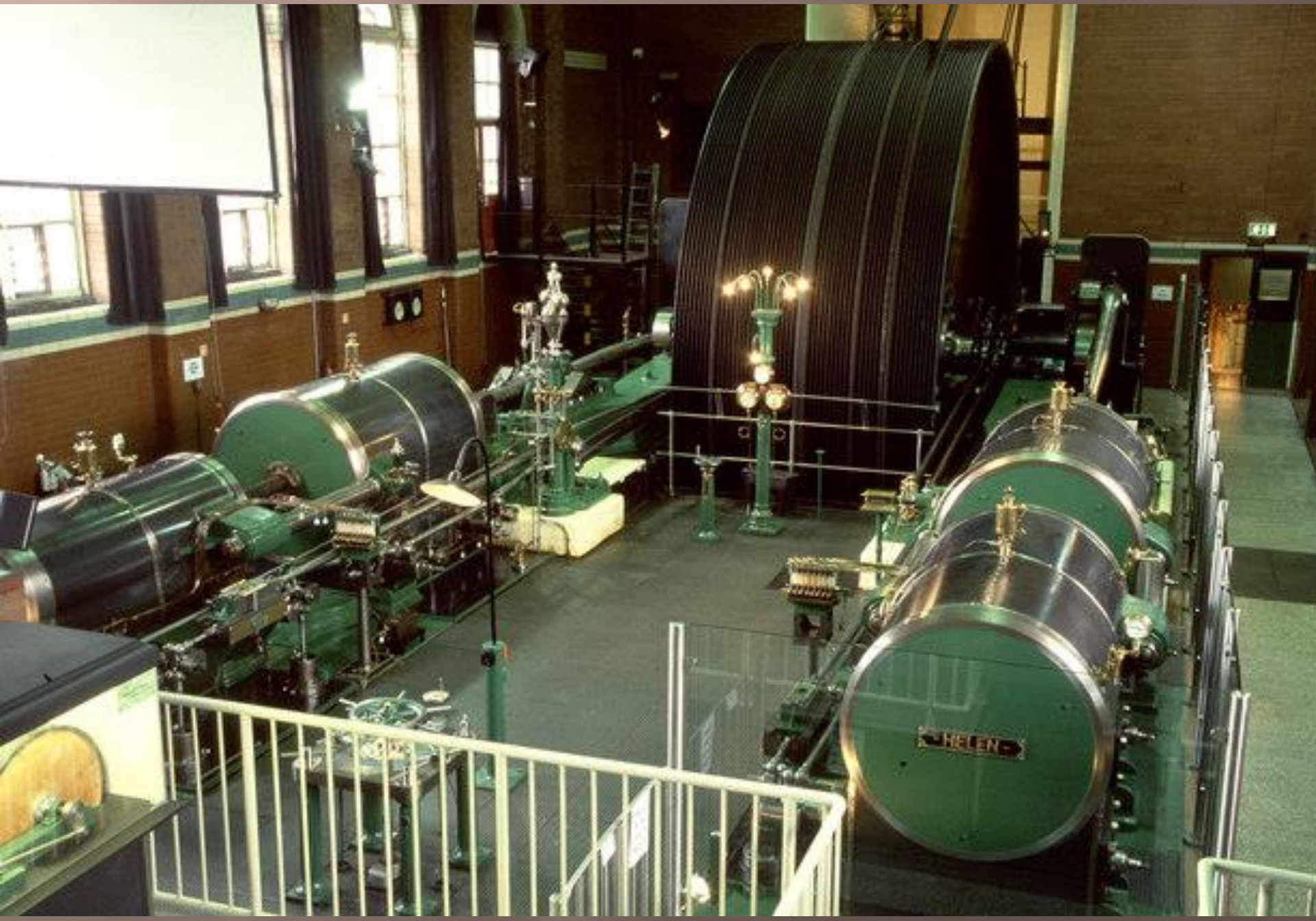

RENAISSANCE
MICRO-CRYSTALLINE
WAX POLISH
65ml

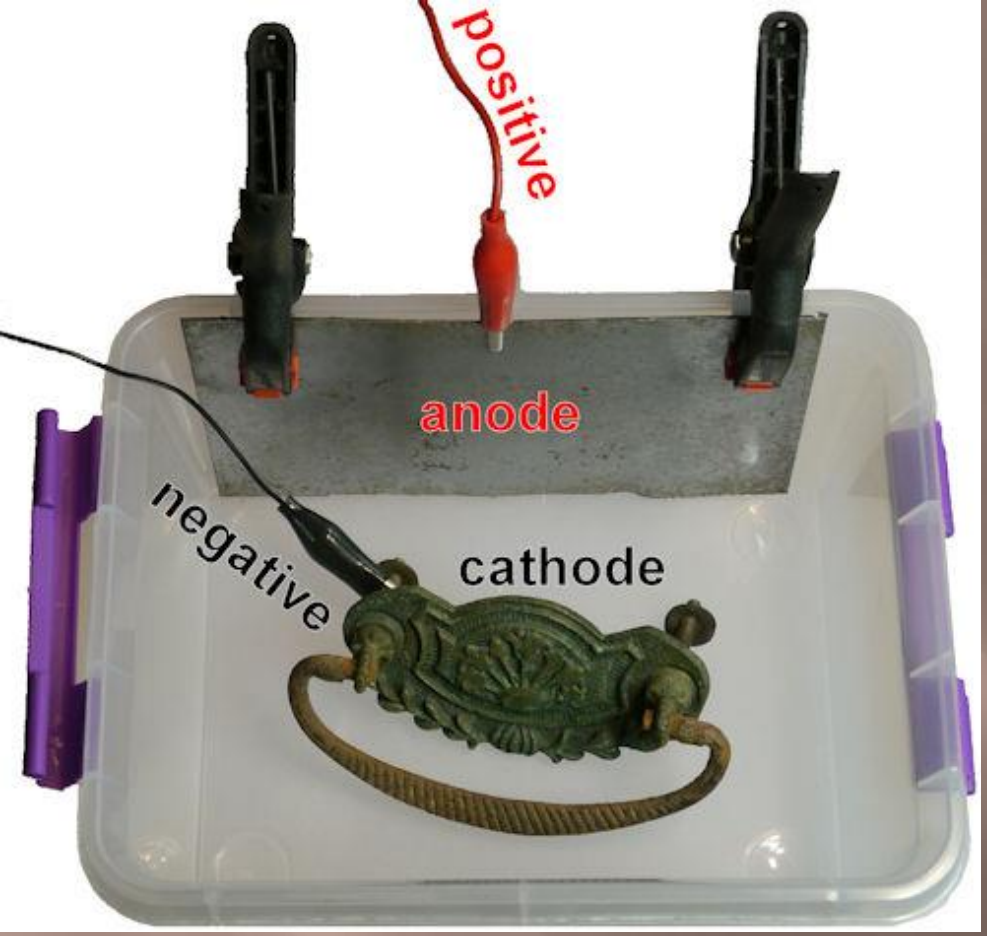

CHESTNUT
PRODUCTS
Microcrystalline
Wax.
Hard wearing, water repellent blended
wax for all woodwork.
TRADE · QUALITY

Microcrystalline wax

1. Ultra-de-oiled petroleum
2. More dense structure than paraffin wax
3. Gives “a recently used” look
4. High melting point
5. Used on wide range of materials
6. The wax is evenly and lightly applied over the surface, then lightly buffed with a smooth lint-free cloth to give a sheen. Where the shape of the item requires, a brush may be used instead.


Wash n' wax!


HELEN


positive
anode
negative
cathode

End