



## Artwork care and maintenance

Whether you are a lifelong art collector, a passionate home decorator or recently purchased your first piece, your art collection is a representation of you. We want to help you properly care for it.

Like any investment, artwork requires careful maintenance to preserve its longevity and value. A Nationwide Private Client personal collections policy is a crucial first step in protecting your art. It's also important that you provide routine care to your art to help avoid damage and corrosion.

When staging your artwork, be sure to consider these common home dangers:

- Direct sunlight
- Smoke
- Extreme and/or rapid temperature changes
- Proximity to doors and windows
- Foot traffic
- Water damage
- Heat

For deep cleanings or restorations, your Nationwide Private Client risk solutions professional can provide you a list of professional conservators. For routine maintenance, we suggest the following techniques:

### Paintings

Moisture is an enemy to oils and acrylics on canvas and can also harm delicate frames and the canvas itself. For routine cleaning, a simple feather duster will suffice when gently brushed over the image and frame. Never use a chemical process cleaning product. Artwork on canvas should always be cleaned by professional conservators. The most widely respected conservation group is The American Institute of Conservation (AIC).

### Frames

Cleaning a frame can be a difficult procedure. When polishing wood frames, we recommend using only organic oils or wax. Be careful not to get oils or wax on the artwork surface. This could end up requiring professional cleaning to remove it.

Caution: Note the frame treatment of your print before cleaning. Test the looseness of your frame. Gently squeeze a corner of the glazing and the back edge of the frame with your thumb and index finger. If the glazing moves and creates a space, then the frame and print must be cleaned very carefully.

### Prints

Most often, prints are covered with an acrylic or glass glazing. When cleaning the glazing, we recommend a simple, mild cleaning solution and warm water. Be careful to lightly dampen the cleaning cloth so the solution does not seep inside the frame and ruin the image, matting or paper.

### Acrylic, fabric and wood art

Porous materials, such as acrylic, fabric and wood art, will absorb any liquid used to clean them. For these types of art pieces, we recommend using a soft feather duster for routine cleaning.

### Bronze sculptures

As a general rule, we only recommend cleaning bronze statues with mild soap and a lightly damp cloth. Over time, bronze statues develop patina—a natural process that artists are likely to take into account when creating the statue. Smoke can also create a film on bronze statues; the mild solution should help remove it.

This four-part collections segment offers a variety of tips to help protect all of your hanging artwork from any possible damage. Please consider this guidance carefully as each of our clients, and their collections are unique. For more information please reference other parts of the Risk Solutions Series: sculpture protection, storing/shipping artwork and protecting your hanging art.

If you have any questions, please contact your agent or Nationwide Private Client Risk Solutions professional. For more information on how you can help prevent losses, visit [nationwide.com/solutionseries](http://nationwide.com/solutionseries).

We offer this information to assist you in making decisions that can help mitigate your risk. While we cannot address every possible scenario or guarantee these tips will work for you, our goal is to support your efforts to protect yourself and your family.

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