

Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory

Conservation Program

Rates for Services:

Service	Unit	Rate
Professional service (hands-on labor, documentation, examination & assessments, treatment proposals, report writing, etc). Requires Purchase Order.	time	\$70/hour
Large scale projects: A full time project budget can be negotiated, based on cost of staff person, fringe, overhead, supplies and services. Requires Memorandum of Agreement or Contract.		Quoted per project
Freeze drying, Small Freeze Dryer, 4'x2'	time	\$350/month
Freeze drying, Large Freeze Dryer, 12'x4'	time	\$500/month
X-Rays Note: time varies, but average four exposures per hour.	Hour and materials	\$140 per hour, minimum one hour, plus \$27 per 17" x14" film and processing,

For a detailed treatment estimate, contact the Head Conservator at 410-586-8577

Treatment Time Estimates by Material & Object Type

Time estimates are based on previous experience, and should be used for planning purposes only. Specific artifacts may require more or less time than indicated, depending on individual differences such as degree of corrosion or concretion, object size, moisture content, etc. Objects that can be treated in bulk, i.e., desalination of ceramic sherds, desalination of small iron objects, may be priced at a bulk rate, not the individual times shown below. "Treatment" = hands-on time by staff person. "Wait" time, such as during long soaking or during freeze-drying, is not charged for labor.

Precise treatment proposals and cost estimates can only be provided after a full examination of the object by a staff conservator. The cost of the examination will be included in the total cost of conservation if the proposal and estimate is accepted by the owner.

For large projects, a full-time staff budget can be negotiated based on cost of staff person, fringe, overhead, supplies and services. Requires Memorandum of Agreement or Contract.

Other costs shown below can be quoted given specific project details:

- 1) Treatment materials such as consolidant resins, electrolytes, solvents, etc.
- 2) Disposal of chemical wastes generated for that project.
- 3) Special analyses as requested.
- 4) Service costs such as freeze-drier time, x-radiography, etc. (see above)

Small Iron objects – (Spikes, hardware, etc.):

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic and x-ray documentation, treatment proposal and written report	2	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment (cleaning, desalination, protective coatings)	3-4	desalination solutions, protective coatings	waste disposal
Treatment Report & documentation	1		
Total time per object	6-7		

Medium to large iron artifacts (fireback, cannonball, kettle, etc):

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic and x-ray documentation, treatment proposal and written report	3	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment (cleaning, desalination, protective coatings)	16-20	desalination solutions, protective coatings	waste disposal
Treatment Report & documentation	2		
Total time per object	21 - 25		

Large to Extra-large iron artifacts (cannon, anchor, etc):

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Documentation and Examination, including BT &AT photographic and x-ray documentation, treatment proposal and written reports	10	Film & processing	Waste disposal
Treatment - remove coatings or superficial corrosion	48-72	paint strippers, walnut-shell abrasive	Waste disposal
Treatment - mechanically remove burial or marine encrustations	40-100		
Treatment - desalination by electrolytic reduction or caustic soak	1 hour/ week for 1-4 years	sodium hydroxide solution, testing solutions	Waste disposal
Treatment - apply protective coatings (specify internal or external storage)	24	tannic acid, acrylic resins, commercial rust-inhibitive paints, microcrystalline wax	
Packing and preparation for transportation	5	Foam, metal or plexiglass armatures, or other as required.	
Total time per object	174 - 414		

Small Non-Ferrous (copper, lead, white metal)objects: (coins, buckles, household items)

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic and x-ray documentation, treatment proposal and written report	2	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment (cleaning, protective coatings)	1-6	coating solutions	
Treatment Report & documentation	1		
Total time per object	4-7		

Glass and Ceramics – Stabilization of sherds:

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic documentation, treatment proposal and written report	1	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment: (per sherd or group of sherds in batch lot) Desalination, consolidation of unstable surface or body.	1-2	consolidant / adhesive resins	
Treatment Report & Documentation	2		
Total time per object	4-5		

Glass and Ceramics – Reconstruction of Vessels:

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic documentation, treatment proposal and written report	1	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment:			
1 Desalination & consolidation of unstable body or surface	1-2	consolidant resins	
2 Reconstruction	1-8	adhesives	
3 Fills, inpaint	1-8	gap-filling materials	
Treatment Report & Documentation	2		
Total time per object	6-21		

Small Wooden objects, waterlogged or dry

Large wooden objects require an increase in examination, cleaning, impregnation, and freeze-drying time. The time required increases proportionately with the size of the object

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic documentation, treatment proposal and written report	1	film & processing	waste disposal
Wood species ID & other special analyses as required	1-2		
Treatment (see below)			
<u>If wet:</u>	2-20		
Clean, remove stains		chelating solutions	waste disposal
PEG Impregnation		Polyethylene glycol	waste disposal
Freeze drying			freeze-dry time
Brushing			
Coating		coating solutions	
Assemble if necessary			
Mount		mounting materials	
<u>If dry:</u>	2-10		
Brushing			
Coating/consolidation		consolidant / coating solutions	
Assemble if necessary			
Mount		mounting materials	
Treatment Report and Documentation	2		
Total treatment time per object	6-25		

Small Leather object, waterlogged or dry

Large leather objects require an increase in examination, cleaning, impregnation, and freeze-drying time. The time required increases geometrically with the size of the object.

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic documentation, treatment proposal and written report	1	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment (see below)			
Leather, Wet:	1-8		
Support if needed			
Clean			
Impregnate with PEG 400		polyethylene glycol	waste disposal
Freeze dry			freeze-dry time
Consolidate/coat			
Leather, Dry	1-2		
Support if needed			
Clean			
Surface coatings as needed		coating solutions	
Treatment Report and Documentation	2		
Total treatment time per object	2-9		

Small textile object, waterlogged or dry

Large textile objects require an increase in examination, cleaning, impregnation, and freeze-drying time. The time required increases geometrically with the size of the object.

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic documentation, treatment proposal and written report	1	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment (see below)			
Textiles, wet:	1-8		
Sew into support			
Clean			
Treat with consolidant		consolidant agent	waste disposal
Freeze dry			freeze-dry time
Create mount		mounting materials	
Textiles, dry	1-2		
Support as needed			
Clean			
Mount		mounting materials	
Treatment Report and Documentation	2		
Total treatment time @ object	4-11		

Bone / tooth / horn, waterlogged or dry

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic documentation, treatment proposal and written report	1	film & processing	waste disposal
Treatment			
Dry	1-3		
Gently dry brush			
Consolidate as necessary		consolidants	
Mount if needed			
Wet or damp	1-4		
Wash gently			
Solvent or air dehydration			
Coat/consolidate if needed		consolidants	
Treatment Report and Documentation	2		
Total treatment time @ object	4-7		

Composite Object (typically waterlogged iron and wood)

Large composite objects require an increase in examination, cleaning, impregnation, and freeze-drying time. The time required increases geometrically with the size of the object.

Task	Time (hours)	Materials	Special Costs
Examination, including photographic documentation, treatment proposal and written report	2	film & processing	waste disposal
Wood species ID, iron chloride content & other special analyses as required	1-5		
Treatment (see below)			
<u>If wet:</u>	10-50		
Clean, remove stains & concretion		chelating agent	waste disposal
Iron desalination		desalination solution	waste disposal
PEG Impregnation of wood		polyethylene glycol & corrosion inhibitor	waste disposal
Freeze drying			freeze-dry time
Brushing			
Coating			
Assemble if necessary			
Mount		mounting materials	
<u>If dry:</u>		10-50	
Brushing & cleaning			
Coating/consolidation	coating solutions		
Assemble if necessary			
Mount	mounting materials		
Treatment Report and Documentation	2		
Total treatment time per object	15-56		