

Busting the “Acid-Free” Myth

Why Acid-Free ≠ Conservation

For years, framers and customers have been led to believe that “acid-free” means safe. The term sounds protective, but in reality, not all “acid-free” boards deliver true conservation protection.

The Truth About Acid-Free

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Acid-Free = Acid Neutralized
Temporarily pH neutral, but...
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The Problem: Lignin Remains
Lignin in wood pulp breaks down, reintroducing acid and causing yellowing and embrittlement.
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The Solution: True Conservation
Acid and lignin are fully removed for permanent protection.

Acid-Free ≠ Conservation. Know the difference. Protect the art

Why It Matters

The right matboard matters. With conservation mats, framers can:

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Stop hidden acid damage
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Match the right protection
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Educate with confidence

Choose conservation, not compromise

Acid-Free vs. Conservation

Acid-Free	Conservation
Temporarily pH neutral	Permanently pH stable
Still contains lignin	Lignin fully removed
Acid returns over time	Lasting protection