

Tips on Preserving Photos

By David Bly

Keep negatives in plastic sleeves. Never touch the surface — handle only by the edges.

Store photos and negatives in a cool, clean, dry place.

Do not write on the surface of photos.

Do not use Scotch tape or other adhesives.

A scanner is best for copying old photos, but you can also use your smartphone, tablet or digital camera.

Keep at a high resolution. You can always make a file smaller, but you can't make one bigger.

Use a logical, uncomplicated system for file names.

Keep your digitized photos in at least one other place besides your computer. External hard drives are inexpensive and hold massive amounts of data. Other good options are flash drives, DVDs and SD cards. You can also store photos in the Cloud. Always work with copies.

Most software that handles photos offers the ability to correct contrast and colour in old photos. Again, work with copies.