DP3 Newsletter
digital print preservation portal
IMAGE PERMANENCE INSTITUTE
Issue: 29

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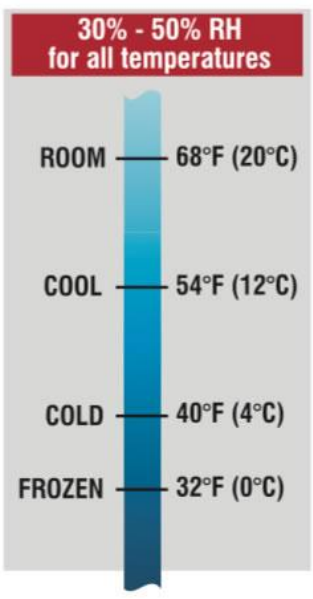
Is it Safe to Freeze Inkjet Prints?



Throughout the history of inkjet printing, a wide variety of colorants, coatings, and supports have been used to make the fine art and professional photographs collected by museums, libraries and archives. These materials have shown, based on anecdotal experience and scientific study, a high degree of variability in terms of permanence at room condition storage. Experiments at IPI have demonstrated that progressively lower storage temperatures result in progressively longer lifespans. However, there has been concern within the imaging industry and cultural heritage institutions that crossing the threshold into below-freezing conditions could have damaging effects on the image quality or the physical integrity of the prints. In fact, this concern was explicitly expressed in the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 18920:2011 Imaging materials - Reflection prints - Storage practices, "The rates of degradation and the potential for physical problems with extremely low temperature and/or low relative humidity storage is not well known for rapidly changing technologies such as… the many different ink jet image media (dye, pigment, wax) and base media (porous, swellable, plain paper)." The standard recommends caution when considering freezing prints because ISO does not know whether such extreme conditions might cause irreparable harm. Therefore, establishing the safety of below freezing storage would be...

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What Do We Mean by Room, Cool, Cold, and Frozen?

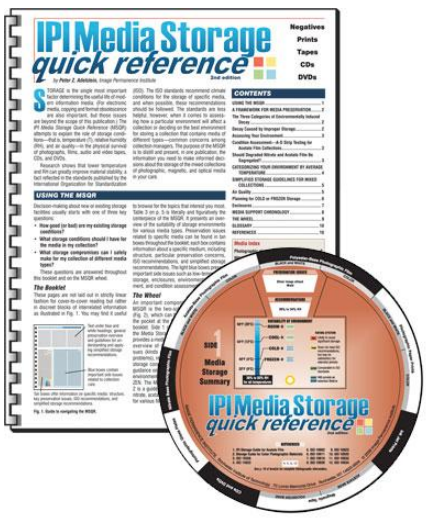


Currently, there are no standard definitions for the terms room, cool, cold, and frozen when used in the field of preservation. The terms are relative and ambiguous, even though we all have a personal sense of what they might mean. The only exception is "frozen" which refers to the temperature at which water becomes solid. This is 0°C or 32°F. But to someone living in a hot climate, room temperature may mean 77°F, but to another living in a cold climate it could mean 65°F. The only thing we seem to have in agreement is the order of the terms with frozen being the coldest, followed by cold, cool, and finally room as the warmest of the four.

To address this, IPI uses a set of temperature "anchor-points" with allowable deviations both up and down the scale to describe the four terms and help institutions quantify their various storage areas. They can be found in IPI's Media Storage Quick Reference (MSQR), 2nd Edition (see below).

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Recommended Reading



IPI Media Storage Quick Reference, 2nd Edition by Peter Z. Adelstein (2009)

The IPI Media Storage Quick Reference (MSQR) was created for today's collection care professionals, who must provide long-term, preservation-quality storage for a growing diversity of collection materials—often in a single storage area. The guide distills key preservation issues for a multitude of collection material types including still and motion picture film, glass plate negatives, magnetic tape, photographic paper prints, inkjet prints, CDs, and DVDs and helps the user better understand how the storage environment affects them, both individually and in mixed collections. You can **purchase the printed guide with the wheel** or **download a PDF version of the guide** without the wheel.

New Publications

Safety of Freezing Inkjet Prints for Long Term Storage by Ivey Barker and Daniel Burge in *IS&T's International Symposium on Technologies for Digital Photo Fulfillment*, September 15-16, 2016 Manchester, UK

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A Guide for the Assessment and Mitigation of Bleed, Gloss Change, and Mold in Inkjet Prints During High-Humidity Conditions by Jennifer Burger and Daniel Burge in *IS&T's International Symposium on Technologies for Digital Photo Fulfillment*, September 15-16, 2016 Manchester, UK

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Core Concepts in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Inkjet-Printed Photographs and Fine Art by Daniel Burge in *Studies in Conservation* Volume 61, 2016 - Issue Supplement 2: LA Congress Preprints Modern Art

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