

Cleaning Smoke & Fire-Damaged Items

Step by Step

01



ANALYSIS

What material is the object made of?

What is the damage from - fire, smoke, soot, water?

Answering these questions will help determine how best to clean and stabilize it.

02



PROTECT YOURSELF & ENVIRONMENT

Ash and soot can be toxic. Cleaning fire-damaged items can agitate dust and soot that are harmful if breathed in or ingested.

To protect yourself, please wear the provided gloves and mask. It is best to clean fire-damaged items in a well ventilated space or outside.

03

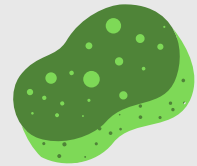


HANDLE WITH CARE

Items exposed to harsh heat will be fragile and should not be touched with bare hands.

Refer to the guidelines for safe-handling and cleaning techniques on the "Marshall Fire - Preserve Your Memories" webpage before attempting to clean any fire-damaged items yourself. Find this info using the QR code above or online at louisvilleco.gov/Museum.

04



CLEANING

This kit includes dry sponges to clean fire-damaged items that are made of glass, metal, ceramic, textiles, & paper.

Gently press a dry sponge on the sooty area to pick up dirt, soot, and ash. Do not rub or wipe. Do not use water. Use all sides of the sponge then cut off soiled parts to expose a new clean sponge area to continue cleaning.

Please seek the advice or services of a professional conservator if you are in doubt about the correct way to clean your personal item. If you choose to clean items on your own, the Museum is not responsible for damage to your personal property.

► Preserve Your Family History

- Scan photos and store them digitally
- Scan family recipes and store them digitally
- Gather and photograph family keepsakes
- Create a "go" box of items to take with you during an emergency



Learn More about
Preserving Family Photos

► Marshall Fire Story Project



Please consider sharing your stories and photos from the Marshall Fire using the Marshall Fire Story Project form, www.louisvilleco.gov/MarshallFireStories.

Our community has been through a lot. Whether you are grieving, looking for ways to understand, wanting to shed light on those who are helping, or simply needing to share, we invite you to add your story and/or photos to this collective of community stories from the Marshall Fire. This event has left us with varying layers of experiences and emotions. All experiences and emotions are valid and welcome.