

The elements, nature and time are waiting to steal your memories away. Pixologie provides this quick guide to help you protect your photos as well help you save your photos when disaster hits.

PROTECT

Pixologie Definition of a Saved Photo

- You can find it when you need it
- It is backed up in two locations; one inside your home and one outside your home



Before the Storm Hits

- If you have time to prepare, protect your photos and photo albums by double bagging them in large, strong plastic bags sealed shut with duct tape. Using a Sharpie marker, write on the duct tape "Photos - Do Not Discard" and your contact information.
- Do not rely on plastic bins to keep your photos dry.

CLEAN and DRY

- Take pictures of all the pages in each album (in case photos are stuck and may not survive being removed)
- Remove photos from the albums, cut out of albums if necessary; rinse in water if dirty
- Hang dry with craft clothespins or place on newspaper print on a table to dry
- Let dry for 3-4 days until they are dry
- Soak photos that are stuck together up to 1-2 days, then hang dry or lay flat on tables



KEEP

After the Storm Hits

- Don't throw away soaked photos that appear ruined
- There is hope that they can be cleaned and recovered.



BAG and FREEZE

If you are fortunate to have power, you can bag and freeze your photo albums to work on when you have time.

The reality is that some photos will probably be lost. We hope our guide will help you save some of your memories and we are keeping all those affected by the storms and fires in our thoughts and prayers.

Photographs in water will quickly deteriorate: images can separate from mounts, emulsions can dissolve or stick together, and staining can occur. Mold can grow within 48 hours and it often causes permanent staining and other damage to photographs.

Time is of the essence: the longer the period of time between the emergency and salvage, the greater the amount of permanent damage that will occur.

From the Northeast Document Conservation Center

DEALING WITH MOLD

Mold is a serious threat to anyone's respiratory system. If photos have been wet more than a day:

- Freeze them in double plastic bags if you can't hang dry them immediately
- Wear gloves and a mask, protective clothing
- Hang dry in a well ventilated area
- Run a dehumidifier