How to store books long term: 10 ways to keep boxed books dry and flat

Paper soaks up whatever the air around it is doing. Pick a cool, dry, steady spot, pack the boxes the way a library shelves books, and keep a list of what's in each box so you don't have to open them all to find one title.

- [ ] **Pick a spot that stays at 70°F or below and 30 to 55 percent humidity**
- [ ] **Rule out attics, garages, damp basements and exterior walls**
- [ ] **Choose a climate-controlled unit for books stored long term**
- [ ] **Dust each book and set aside any with mold or a musty smell**
- [ ] **Use small, sturdy boxes; acid-free boxes for valuable books**
- [ ] **Pack upright or flat, gaps filled, never spine-up**
- [ ] **Keep boxes off the floor and three inches from walls**
- [ ] **Run a dehumidifier in damp spaces; check a box each season for pests**
- [ ] **Wrap collectible books in acid-free paper and box them separately**
- [ ] **Number every box and keep a list of the titles inside**