



Smoke Damage Book and Document Clean-Up

The smoke's gases or the soot it leaves behind can cause smoke damage. Depending on the extent of the damage and the type, different cleaning and restoration techniques must be implemented to properly clean the mess. When smoke damages books, photos, or important paper documents, the process to restore them can be especially difficult because of the fragility of these items.

Damage Occurs: Smoke damages books and documents by staining exposed surfaces, mainly cover and paper edges. Damages to these items will depend on the quality, age, and condition of the documents affected. It will also depend on how well the items were stored prior to encountering the smoke. Most homes, schools and business owners keep books on shelves. Therefore the damage occurs mostly on the outer bindings and the top edges. Properly stacked books and documents will actually protect each other from intense smoke and soot damage. Keeping bookshelves and desks away from the ventilation ducts or pipe work will also reduce the likelihood of smoke damage.

Restoration and Cleaning

Regardless of how much damage your books or documents have received, it is important to take extreme care when handling them. Books may not seem to have experienced much damage, but smoke, especially dry smoke, can ruin book- bindings and make pages very brittle. Never handle damaged books by their pages – otherwise, increased “fingerprint” damage can occur.

If your books, photos, or documents have experienced moderate to heavy smoke damage, you should seek out a professional book and document restoration specialist. Restoration companies have a number of state-of-the-art cleaning techniques they can employ to recover your damaged books, i.e., sanding to remove stubborn soot stains on page edges, deodorizing techniques to remove smoky odors, and may use ozone gas chambers to remove stains and safely deodorize documents.

Smoke is a lesser- known damager of homes, schools, and business materials. It can, however, be the most damaging because it is harder to assess the extent of the damage until it is often times too late. By properly employing strategic storage techniques and proper material handling practices, you can greatly reduce the potential for smoke damage in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Fast smoke damage restoration of your document is essential when it threatens to ruin important materials forever.