



Utrecht Art Supplies

Studio Craft: Rolling Canvas Paintings for Transport



"Is it OK to roll paintings for shipping and storage?"

Sometimes it's necessary to remove a canvas from stretchers for transport. Smaller works can be sandwiched flat between Glassine Paper and foam boards, but larger works may need to be rolled for practical reasons and to avoid puncture. Acrylics and recently painted oils stand the best chance of surviving in good condition because the paint film is more flexible; aged oil paintings should not be rolled if you can avoid doing so.



Paintings should be rolled paint-side out to avoid compression. Cover art with Glassine Paper and roll around a wide, solid core material like PVC pipe or carpet roll tubes.



Place the rolled canvas inside a box for transport using bubble wrap for extra protection. For larger paintings, roll bubble wrap and additional cardboard around rolled artwork.

Unroll immediately after transport. Paintings should be stored flat or re-stretched promptly. Do not leave pictures rolled for long periods in storage.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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