



Volatile Organic Compounds and the Conservation of Inorganic Materials

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ISBN	9781909492400
Publisher	Archetype Publications
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	6.94 in x 9.59 in
Pages	120 Pages
Illustrations	63 color, 22 b&w
Price	\$50.00

- Identification, treatment and prevention of Volatile Organic Compounds in museums and galleries

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are carbon-based molecules which, in museums and galleries, are often found as indoor pollutants. The result of off-gassing of materials used in the construction of show cases, storage cabinets and containers, and also resulting from methods of exhibit preparation and cleaning, VOCs not only present possible health hazards but can also affect objects in collections. This book focuses on acetic and formic acid often present in wood and wood products, adhesives, sealants, paints, polyester and rubber as well in the outdoor atmosphere.

The author's research into this topic took her to various museum collections where she observed and recorded the deleterious effects of these volatile compounds on various inorganic materials, many of which are illustrated in the text. Having identified the sources of the VOCs she discusses appropriate conservation treatments, display and storage materials, and ways of monitoring and mitigating the effects of the local environment.