

## **Policies for Hazardous and Sensitive Materials**

The Department of Anthropology encourages the use of its collections for research, publication, exhibition, and educational purposes. The Department seeks to reasonably balance its obligations to the long-term and respectful care of the collections, as well as the interests and health of visitors and staff.

### *Hazardous Materials*

Dangerous chemicals such as arsenic, DDT, chlordane, and carbon tetrachloride may in the past have been applied to objects for pest control or preservation purposes. Objects consisting, in whole or in part, of organic materials such as fur, hair, skin, feathers, and plant materials are more likely to have been treated with these chemicals. However, inorganic objects may have been stored in rooms in which dangerous chemicals were once applied. Therefore, all objects in the collections should be handled as if residues are present. These basic safety measures should be followed when working with collections:

1. Wear nitrile gloves *at all times* to prevent absorption of potentially hazardous material through the skin. If gloves compromise your safety or the safety of the object being handled, you may consider removing the gloves, but you must wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after the task is complete.
2. Wash your hands every time you remove your gloves, especially before breaks and eating.
3. No food or drink is allowed in collections areas.
4. Cover all surfaces with 1/8" ethafoam and then cover with plastic. Wash work surfaces daily with damp paper towel and replace plastic often to reduce the accumulation of harmful particulate debris.

### *Culturally Sensitive Materials*

A number of objects in the collections are religious or ceremonial items that are sacred or sensitive to the communities from which they came. The Department of Anthropology makes every effort to respectfully care for these objects and collaborate with communities to ensure they are cared for properly. All visitors should be aware:

1. Human remains are in the building, in one isolated storage unit. Visits and research in this area is strictly limited.
2. Religious and ceremonial objects of especially sacred significance, as identified by representatives, are in the building, in one isolated room. Visits and research in this area is strictly limited.
3. Research on objects identified as sacred may require special permission from community leaders, priests, elders, or other tribal representatives in addition to the Chair of the Department of Anthropology.