

Preserving Your Drawing

There are three levels of preservation, ranging from the least effective to almost indestructible.

Level 1 – Spray Preservative – This method is only somewhat effective in preserving the drawing. After spray preserving the drawing can still be smudged.

You can use the following preservatives to spray fix the drawing (you will need 1 can):

1. Art Fixative – from an art supply store (@\$15 a can)
2. Clear Krylon – from your local hardware store or Wal-mart (@\$5 a can)
3. Any other brand clear enamel spray

Things to keep in mind while spraying:

1. Keep the spray at least 12 inches away from the canvas
2. Keep the can moving at all times – do not soak the canvas as color will wash out.
3. There should be enough in the can to do 2-3 coats. Allow the preservative to dry between coats.
4. Spray only in a well-ventilated area. Outside can work well as long as it's not windy or raining.

Level 2 – Patio Door Insulating Kit - After spray preserving, cover the drawing with a patio door insulating kit plastic. This method is inexpensive and quite effective for preserving the integrity of the drawings and increasing its longevity. Of course someone can still come along and accidentally rip the plastic or stick a finger through it, so it's important to hang the drawing out of reach.

Patio door insulating kits can be purchased at your local hardware store or Wal-mart. If you live in the southern part of the country where insulating your windows and doors during winter is unnecessary, then you can order the kits online. Just search for "patio door insulating kit" and you should get quite a few options to choose from. Kits run about \$13.

Steps to "insulating" the drawing:

1. Spray preserve the drawing, let it dry then gently tap a corner of the drawing on the floor to shake off any excess chalk that didn't get sealed by the spray.
2. Lay out the plastic on the floor and put the drawing on top of the plastic, face down.
3. Wrap the plastic around the frame and attach at 7-10 inch intervals with duct tape to the back of the frame.
4. Staple the plastic to the frame through the duct tape.
5. Stand the drawing back up, picture facing you and use a heat gun to get the plastic to shrink tightly around the drawing.

Level 3 – Lucite/Plexiglass cover or Professional framing

You can have the drawing professionally framed, but that will likely cost close to \$1000. The finished product is also quite heavy if actual glass is used.

Another option is to buy a 6 by 8 foot piece of Lucite or Plexiglass – a sheet of stiff, clear plastic and screw it into the frame on top of the drawing, after spray preserving it. This is very effective in keeping the drawing preserved for an extended period of time. That size Lucite/Plexiglass would need to be special ordered through a plastics manufacturer and depending on the thickness of the material, may be in the \$200-300 range.

If you have additional questions, please email Polina@chalkguy.com. Thank you!