

The 7 Warning Signs Your Photos Are at Risk

Your old family photo albums may look fine from the outside—but hidden damage can be silently destroying them. This quick guide shows you what to watch for, and how to protect your memories before it is too late.

1. Sticky or 'Magnetic' Pages

Those peel-back plastic albums from the '80s and '90s are photo traps. The glue yellows, hardens, and can bond to the photo surface, causing permanent damage.

1 2. Curling or Warped Photos

Photos that curl at the corners or ripple in the middle are reacting to moisture or chemical breakdown. This warping can lead to cracking or fading.



1 3. Stored in a Basement or Attic

Even if they seem safe, storage in areas with temperature swings causes paper fatigue and encourages mold. These spaces are rarely archive-friendly.

4. Cracks, Fading, or Discolored Faces

The first thing to fade? Faces. Sunlight, chemical reactions, and plastic coverings break down color fast—especially in older prints.

1 5. Musty 'Old Book' Smell

That familiar scent might seem nostalgic—but it's often mildew, a sure sign of microbial activity. Mold can ruin entire albums quickly.

▲ 6. No Digital Backups

If there's no digital copy, your entire photo history is one accident away from being lost. Floods, fires, or even a spilled drink can erase generations.

▲ 7. Only One Copy

When only one family member has the original album, it's both inaccessible and vulnerable. Digitized albums can be shared, protected, and enjoyed by everyone.

→ Bonus: Trust What You're Leaving Behind

Archivitize is a family-run business built by trained archivists who follow the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Code of Ethics. We preserve your memories with care and professionalism.

Are your photos at risk? Take a look and take a deep breath. We can help.

⊘ Book a free 30-minute consultation: <u>www.calendly.com/digitalarchivy</u>

Digital Archivy is a family run digital preservation company. We help families digitize, share and access photographic memories through family photo albums online.

Have your read: 8 Reasons Families Benefit from Digitizing Photo Albums?

We are experienced professional archivists and active members of varous professional associations. We want to put our experience to work for you.

Contact us to discuss your current issues and photo albums.

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