

# Museum Collections Storage Guide

Protecting Collections and Saving Space

# A time-tested process to protect collections and save space.

Let's design from the inside out.

We see it all the time: even the most competent and esteemed museum professionals become a bit uncertain when faced with the daunting task of planning new collections storage areas.

Whether you're shopping for a single cabinet or renovating a collection area or new facility, this guide is intended as a starting point to help you take the first steps toward designing a new storage solution.

**We urge you to design from the inside out, and by that we mean starting with the needs of your collection, then ensuring that day-to-day procedures are as efficient as possible, and then considering the physical constraints of your facility.**

By following this time-trusted method we can help you design a storage solution that protects the items entrusted to your care while also promoting efficiency and making the best use of limited storage space.

While your design project might seem formidable, keep in mind that we design specialized storage solutions every day. For nearly 50 years we've been helping some of the world's most prestigious institutions plan their storage layouts, select the products that will best protect their collections, and ultimately save time, money, and space.

**We're standing by to help preserve the most important collection in the world: Yours.**



ST1-23  
ST2

## HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

*The study collection at Historic St. Mary's City is accessed multiple times every day, so staff wanted Viking cabinets mounted on an electronic compact storage system to facilitate storage and retrieval.*

*They also ordered counter-height cabinets fitted with wheels to keep artifacts organized and protected during transit to classrooms.*

*Lift-off doors make it easy for instructors to transfer artifacts between cabinets.*

*The project saves space, keeps the collections organized and protected, and provides convenient access.*

# EXCELLENCE IS STANDARD

The details set Viking apart



## VIKING CLOSED-CELL ELASTOMERIC SEAL

Our cabinets are manufactured with a steel channel designed to house an adhesive closed-cell seal. Extensive third-party testing has proven the effectiveness and safety of this seal, and it can be easily removed and replaced after decades of use.



## THREE-POINT LATCHING SYSTEM

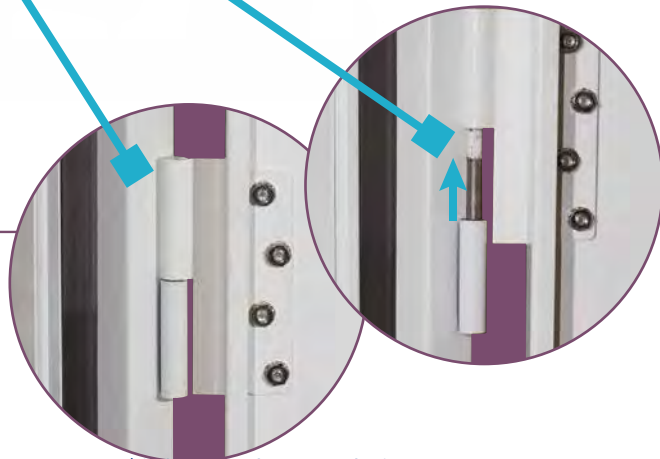
Our reliable and easy-to-use latching systems keep collections safe and secure. Our three-point latching system, particularly when combined with optional air vents, ensures the proper rate of air exchange inside the cabinets.

## NON-OFF-GASSING POWDER-COAT PAINT

Our powder-coat paint provides a clean, durable finish that helps protect and preserve specimens and artifacts.

## LIFT-OFF DOORS

Ideal for collections that are growing and changing, our lift-off doors offer quick convenience when transferring drawers or trays between cabinets.



### VIKING WATERSHIELD CAP

Our cabinets have no seams on the top, which means that collections are protected from water damage in case of overhead sprinkler deployment or malfunction.

### EASY-ACCESS LEVELERS

Accessible from inside the cabinet near the door, our levelers are convenient and easy to use.



### OPTIONAL AIR VENTS

Vents with exterior-mounted closure mechanisms allow for convenient adjustment while cabinet doors are closed.



### PERMA-SLIDE PAINT

Interior panels are finished with non-off-gassing perma-slide paint, which helps drawers and trays operate smoothly.



### REINFORCED INTEGRATED PALLET BASE WITH REMOVABLE FRONT COVER

Forklifts and pallet lifts are helpful for moving heavy cabinets, and our optional pallet base helps ensure that cabinets will remain undamaged. A removable front cover maintains the cabinets' sleek appearance when the base is not in use.



### MADE IN THE USA

All our museum products are engineered and manufactured under one roof in the USA. With a full engineering team working at our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, our in-house expertise and experience is unsurpassed in the museum storage industry. Founded in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, in 1972, Spacesaver is ISO 9001:2008 certified and has completed more than 300,000 installations.

Sales, installation, and service are provided by the Spacesaver Group of independent distributors, which operates throughout North America and around the world.

# PRESERVATION CABINETS

APPLICABLE  
COLLECTIONS:



Art



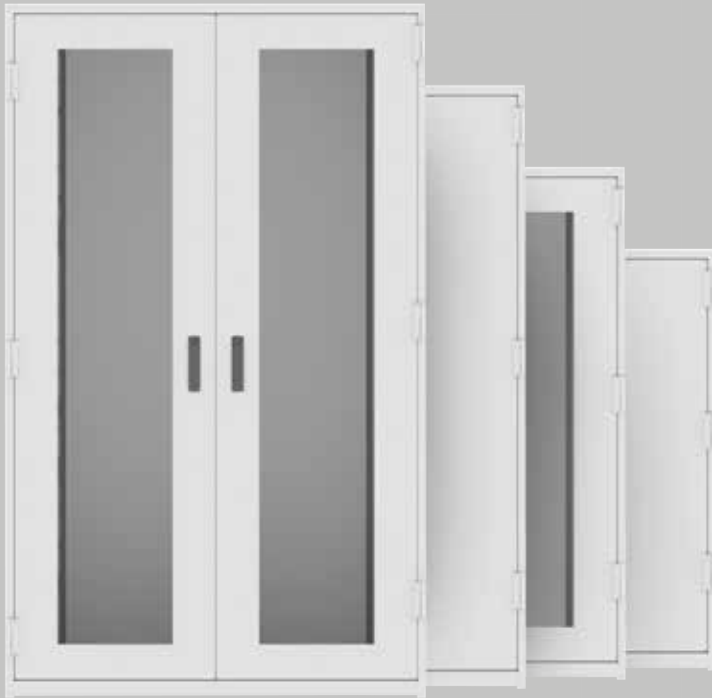
Historical



Natural

## VIKING 920 SERIES

Widths: 36", 42", 48", 60"  
 Depths: 18", 24", 30", 36"  
 Heights: 42", 60", 72", 84", 96"



With a reconfigurable interior and a sturdy, modular frame, the Viking Preservation Cabinet 920 Series offers a unique combination of versatility and strength.

Interchangeable interior accessory panels allow for new configurations in the future, and these modular cabinets can be stacked, bolted together, or mounted on compact storage systems.



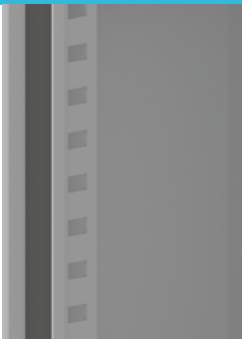
**Versatility built in.**  
**Versatility for**  
**the future.**

### SHOWN WITH

- Optional visual lift-off doors
- Optional door vent
- Optional shelves
- Optional 1-1/2" drawers
- Optional 3" drawers
- Viking WaterShield cap

## INTERIOR MOUNTING OPTIONS

### INTEGRATED CORNER POST



The integrated corner post comes standard on all 920 Series cabinets. It accepts a variety of accessories that can be mounted using clips, brackets, or mounts.

### Optional Panel Insert SAFETY-STOP PANEL INSERT



This channel-in-channel panel (CIC) style is ideal for collections that typically stay inside the cabinet. It has safety stop mechanisms to prevent trays from accidentally extending.

### Optional Panel Insert FULL-SLIDE PANEL INSERT

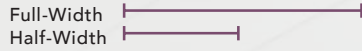


The corrugated panel (CORR) style allows users to completely remove trays from the cabinet for study or display, and it does not accept safety stop mechanisms.

## OPTIONS

### SHELVES

#### Standard



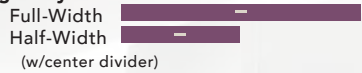
#### Heavy-Duty



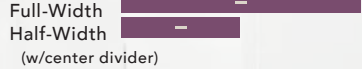
**EX** Shelves can include an **Adjustable Hat Shelf/Coat Rod Unit**.

### TRAYS

#### 2" High Tray



#### 4" High Tray



### DRAWERS

#### 3" High Drawer



#### 4" High Drawer



#### 6" High Drawer



#### Desiccant Drawer



Drawers can include a **Rolled Textile Unit**.

Drawers require your choice of **individual channel, 3-channel, 6-channel or 12-channel panel**.

### HANDLES



**Hansen Handle**



**Emka Handle**

**Sliding Closure Vents**



## IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITY ART STUDY CENTER

An Ivy League University chose Spacesaver to provide comprehensive storage solutions for a new art study center. Viking cabinets were chosen following extensive third-party testing to ensure proper air exchange to protect the works of art inside, and compact mobile systems increased storage capacity.

Counter-height cabinets double as a convenient work surface.

Some cabinets were stacked and custom-sized to take full advantage of vertical space.

The project has created an immersive learning environment and provides better access to the collection.



## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ZOOLOGY COLLECTION

*The Zoological Museum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison stores nearly 750,000 specimens, including a number of type specimens. Viking's preservation cabinets have provided secure storage for the collections for decades, and the cabinets continue to adapt as new specimens are acquired. From polar bears to small birds, the collection's specimens are protected by the cabinets' non-off-gassing powder-coat finish and a variety of other features.*

Standard lift-off doors enable staff to easily relocate drawers as the collection expands.

The cabinets are configured to accept new drawers as well as legacy drawers, resulting in a seamless storage solution.

A non-off-gassing powder-coat finish is particularly important when storing zoological collections.



**APPLICABLE COLLECTIONS:**



Art



Historical



Natural

# PRESERVATION CABINETS

Oversized

The colossal Viking Model 395 cabinet is ideal for protecting large specimens and artifacts. The bi-fold doors on this extra-large cabinet facilitate access to stored items, and the doors can lift completely off to offer access to multiple cabinet interiors at the same time.

**Perfect for pelts, quilts, and other large items that need a climate-controlled environment.**

Sturdy steel construction and a variety of optional accessories, including dividers, shelves, and drawers, make it easy to customize this versatile cabinet to accommodate virtually any need.

**VIKING MODEL 395**

181 cu. ft.  
94 1/2" W x 49 29/32" D x 78 3/4" H



**SHOWN WITH**

- Full-width shelves
- Full-width 3 1/2" Drawer
- Viking WaterShield cap
- Bi-fold lift-off doors

## OPTIONS

### DRAWERS

- 1 1/2" High Drawer**
  - Full-Width
  - Half-Width
  - (w/center divider)
- 3 1/2" High Drawer**
  - Full-Width
  - Half-Width
  - (w/center divider)
- Desiccant Drawer**
  - Full-Width

### HANDLES

- Lever**
- Hansen Handle**
- Eberhard Handle**
- Emka Handle**



**Sliding Closure Vents**



# BOTANY/HERBARIUM CABINETS

APPLICABLE COLLECTIONS:



Art



Historical



Natural

The mid-size Model 241 has a single lift-off door and 26 compartments. Our standard elastomeric seal, housed in a purpose-made steel channel, protects specimens from moisture and other contaminants.

## SHOWN WITH

- Closed-cell elastomeric seal
- Lift-off door
- Viking WaterShield cap
- Pull-out work shelf

### VIKING MODEL 241

19.3 cu. ft.  
29 5/8"W x 19 1/8"D x 84"H



Designed to preserve and protect botanical specimens, our line of botany cabinets have extra space in the front and back of the compartments to promote the free circulation of air and fumigants. The full-height models feature a convenient pull-out reference shelf, and the counter-height model can be stacked or used as a work surface.

**Unique design promotes better air circulation.**

## OPTIONS



Lever



Hansen Handle



Eberhard Handle



Emka Handle

## OTHER VIKING BOTANY CABINETS

### VIKING MODEL 240

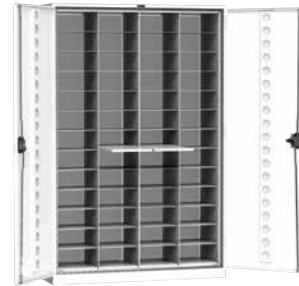
8.9 cu. ft.  
29 5/8"W x 19 1/8"D x 42 7/16"H



Our counter-height botany cabinet features 12 compartments and the standard three-point latching system.

### VIKING MODEL 242

38.7 cu. ft.  
55"W x 19 1/8"D x 84"H



The large, double-door Model 242 has 52 compartments and two pull-out work shelves.



**APPLICABLE COLLECTIONS:**



Art



Historical



Natural

# ENTOMOLOGY CABINETS

Our entomology cabinets are compatible with the four standard entomology drawer styles and are commonly used

**Customizable to accommodate Cornell, USNM, California Academy, and Smithsonian drawer styles.**

with optional fumigant pockets. We offer full-height and counter-height models to suit the needs of your collection and facility.

needs of your collection and facility.

## VIKING MODEL 520

23"W×20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"D×42<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"H



With the ability to accommodate any standard or custom entomology drawer, the Model 520 is a sturdy and versatile counter-height cabinet.

### SHOWN WITH

- Closed-cell elastomeric seal
- Three-point latching system
- Lift-off door
- Viking WaterShield cap
- Optional wooden drawers

## OPTIONS



Lever



Hansen Handle



Eberhard Handle



Emka Handle

## OTHER VIKING ENTOMOLOGY CABINETS

### VIKING MODEL 521

23"W×20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"D×84"H



This full-height, single-door cabinet features a convenient pull-out work shelf and measures 23" wide and 20-3/8" deep.

### VIKING MODEL 522

43<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>"W×20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"D×84"H



Our popular Model 522 offers two doors and two pull-out work shelves. As with our other entomology cabinets, extra air space promotes the circulation of air and fumigants.



## CHICAGO FIELD MUSEUM

When the Field Museum decided to consolidate and relocate millions of specimens in the Division of Insects' collection, Spacesaver and Viking were chosen to provide more than a thousand cabinets on compact mobile storage systems.

Custom entomology cabinets maximized floor space while complying with fire codes.

We provided oversight and coordination, ensuring that this complicated project was completed on time and on budget.

# FLAT FILE CABINETS

APPLICABLE COLLECTIONS:



Art



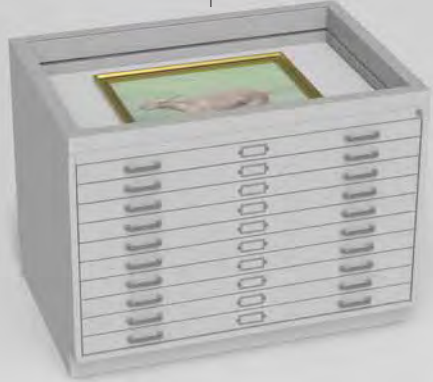
Historical



Natural

Developed in cooperation with an art museum, Model 414 features a display top that provides convenient, easily managed storage and display.

VIKING MODEL 414 | 45 7/8"Wx32"Dx34 3/4"H



**SHOWN WITH**

- Display top
- Cushioned drawer bumpers
- Drawers with safety stops

Providing secure protection for maps and other two-dimensional items, our flat file cabinets offer an enduring value for museums, archives, and other institutions.

Stainless steel tracks and plated rollers ensure that our flat file drawers operate smoothly day after day, year after year. Model 414, pictured at left, features a "showcase" glass top to easily display individual works of art.

**Flawless function and enduring value.**

**OTHER VIKING FLAT FILE CABINETS**

**VIKING MODEL 420-4**

54 21/100"Wx40 1/4"Dx17 5/8"H



The 420-4 model features four 3" drawers and can be stacked to create a convenient workspace.

**VIKING MODEL 420-5**

54 21/100"Wx40 1/4"Dx17 5/8"H



The 420-5 has five 2 1/2" drawers with the same features across the 420 series.

**VIKING MODEL 420-6**

54 21/100"Wx40 1/4"Dx17 5/8"H



The 420-6 has six 2" drawers with the same features across the 420 series.

**VIKING MODEL 423**

91 24/25"Wx60 3/4"Dx17 5/8"H



The extra-wide 423 provides ample storage for exceptionally large items. It has four 3" drawers.



**MADISON MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

*When the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art needed a way to provide both storage and display for two-dimensional art, the staff called on Viking to provide a secure and creative solution. The cabinets house a variety of artwork and the staff can easily switch out items in the top display drawer to coordinate with current exhibitions.*

Tempered low-lead glass panels on the top of each cabinet allow viewing into the top drawer.

Top drawers feature a linen-covered panel to provide a finished appearance for the display areas.

The cabinets' non-off-gassing finish offers archival-quality protection for stored items.

APPLICABLE COLLECTIONS:



Art



Historical



Natural

# GEOLOGY CABINETS

Ideal for heavy geological specimens, our geology cabinets can be configured to accommodate drawers or trays from any supplier. The full-height cabinet, pictured at right, provides optimal storage capacity, while the counter-height version can be stacked or used as a

**Sturdy storage for heavy specimens.**

work or display surface. Our three-point latching system and elastomeric seal offer secure protection.

## VIKING MODEL 232

18.19 cu. ft.  
20 1/4"Wx25 1/2"Dx84"H



Model 232 has a convenient lift-off door and provides nearly 19 cubic feet of storage space that can be configured to accommodate virtually any drawer or tray.

### SHOWN WITH

- Closed-cell elastomeric seal
- Lift-off door
- Viking WaterShield cap
- Easy-access levelers

## OPTIONS



Lever



Hansen Handle



Eberhard Handle



Emka Handle

## OTHER VIKING GEOLOGY CABINETS

### VIKING MODEL 231

8.51 cu. ft.  
20 1/4"Wx25 1/2"Dx42 1/2"H



Whether you're using existing drawers or ordering new ones from us, our heavy-duty cabinets are built to withstand heavy specimens and daily use.



Our cabinet-height, heavy-duty geology cabinet keeps specimens protected and organized.



## ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR METEORITE STUDIES

*Our full-height cabinets were used in combination with custom-designed counter-height cabinets to store and display the world's largest university-based meteorite collection.*

*The cabinets' heavy-duty steel construction is built to support heavy specimens and provide decades of trouble-free daily use by staff and visiting researchers.*

Visual doors permit viewing of contents.

Convenient lift-off doors allow staff and managers to quickly transfer items between cabinets as the collection grows.

This project required a number of custom cabinets as well our standard offerings.

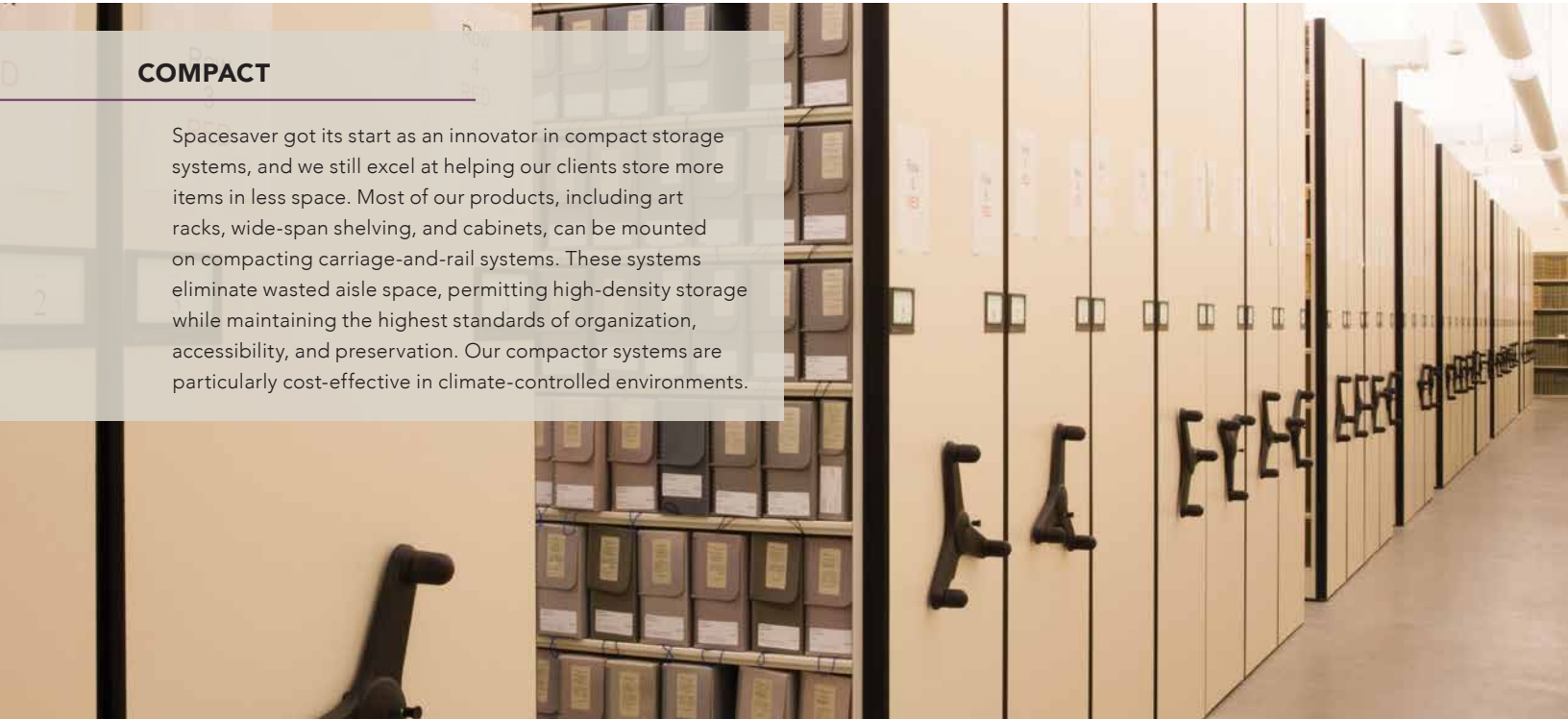
# COMPLETE MUSEUM STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Although we specialize in museum cabinets, we also offer a suite of other collections care solutions for museums, archives, and repositories.

All our products are engineered and manufactured in the USA and can be custom designed to fit the needs of your collection, your staff, and your facility.

## COMPACT

Spacesaver got its start as an innovator in compact storage systems, and we still excel at helping our clients store more items in less space. Most of our products, including art racks, wide-span shelving, and cabinets, can be mounted on compacting carriage-and-rail systems. These systems eliminate wasted aisle space, permitting high-density storage while maintaining the highest standards of organization, accessibility, and preservation. Our compactor systems are particularly cost-effective in climate-controlled environments.

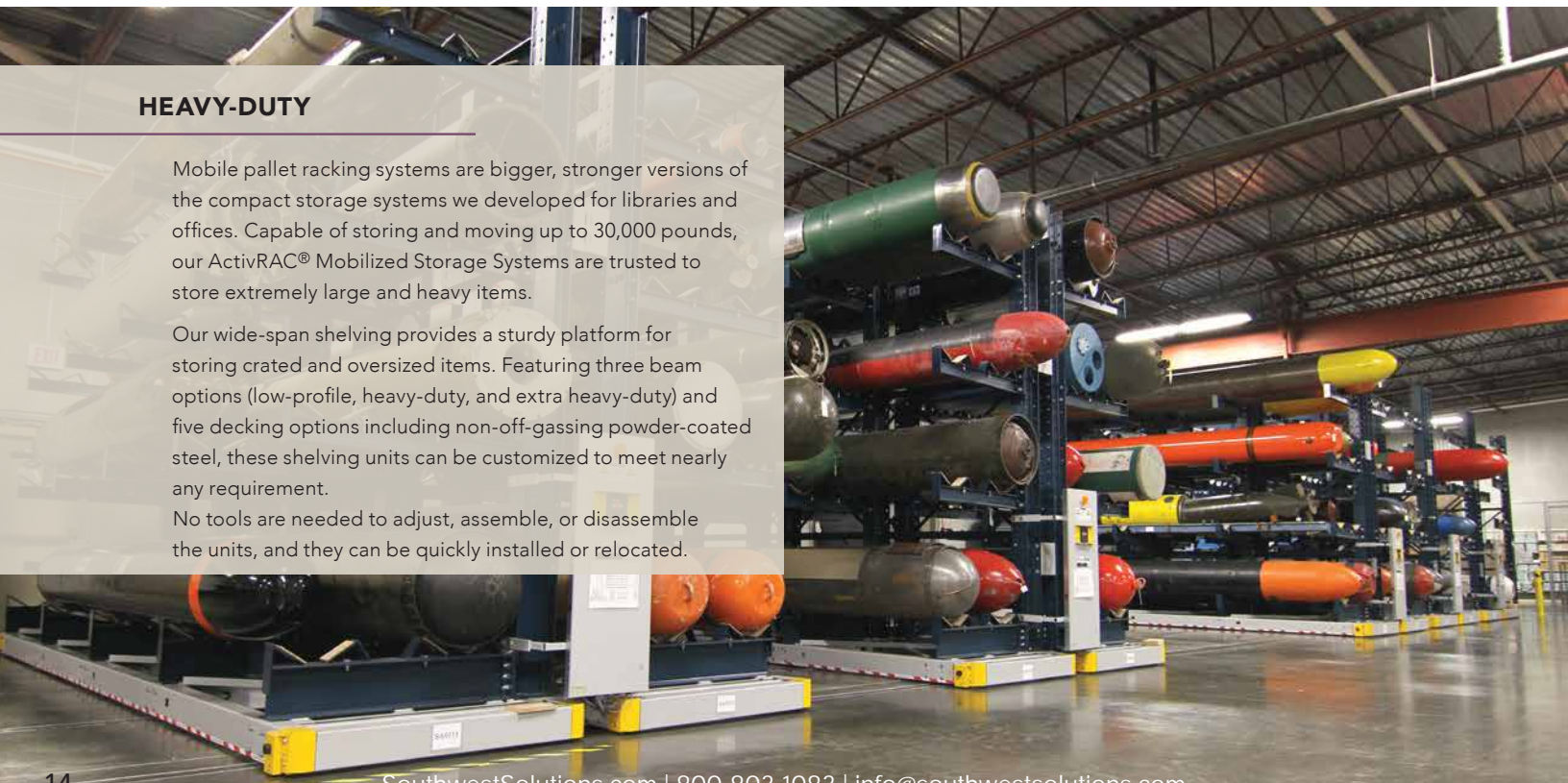


## HEAVY-DUTY

Mobile pallet racking systems are bigger, stronger versions of the compact storage systems we developed for libraries and offices. Capable of storing and moving up to 30,000 pounds, our ActivRAC® Mobilized Storage Systems are trusted to store extremely large and heavy items.

Our wide-span shelving provides a sturdy platform for storing crated and oversized items. Featuring three beam options (low-profile, heavy-duty, and extra heavy-duty) and five decking options including non-off-gassing powder-coated steel, these shelving units can be customized to meet nearly any requirement.

No tools are needed to adjust, assemble, or disassemble the units, and they can be quickly installed or relocated.



## ART RACKS

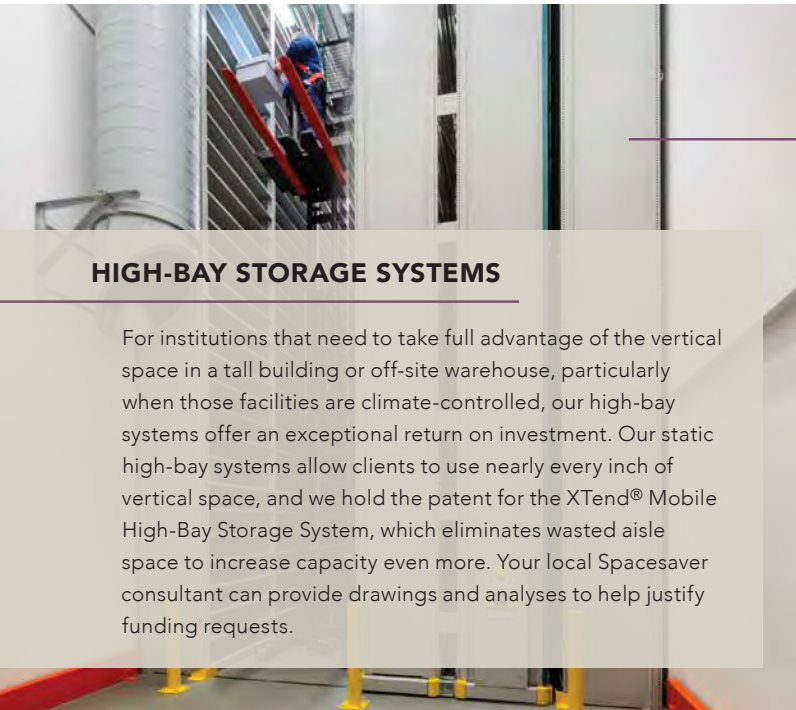
Art racks provide compact storage and convenient access to hanging art, and we offer a variety of options to suit any space. We offer ceiling-mounted hand-controlled manual art rack systems, called Hang Glider Pro®, along with floor-mounted high-density art storage rack systems, free-standing modular art racks, and 4-Post Art Racks, which can be mounted on mobile carriages and integrated into compact storage systems with other Spacesaver specialty storage units.

Art racks are equipped with anti-tip and anti-vibration mechanisms to ensure that artwork is protected.



## HIGH-BAY STORAGE SYSTEMS

For institutions that need to take full advantage of the vertical space in a tall building or off-site warehouse, particularly when those facilities are climate-controlled, our high-bay systems offer an exceptional return on investment. Our static high-bay systems allow clients to use nearly every inch of vertical space, and we hold the patent for the XTend® Mobile High-Bay Storage System, which eliminates wasted aisle space to increase capacity even more. Your local Spacesaver consultant can provide drawings and analyses to help justify funding requests.



## TEXTILE RACKS

Fully adjustable cantilever textile racks encourage best practices in the storage of rolled flags, quilts, rugs, and other textiles.



## ARCHIVAL SHELVING

When choosing shelving units, keep in mind that we offer perforated shelving, end panels, and uprights to allow increased air circulation.



## LOW-LEVEL LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Our optional low-level lighting systems are activated only when aisles are opened, limiting unnecessary light exposure.

