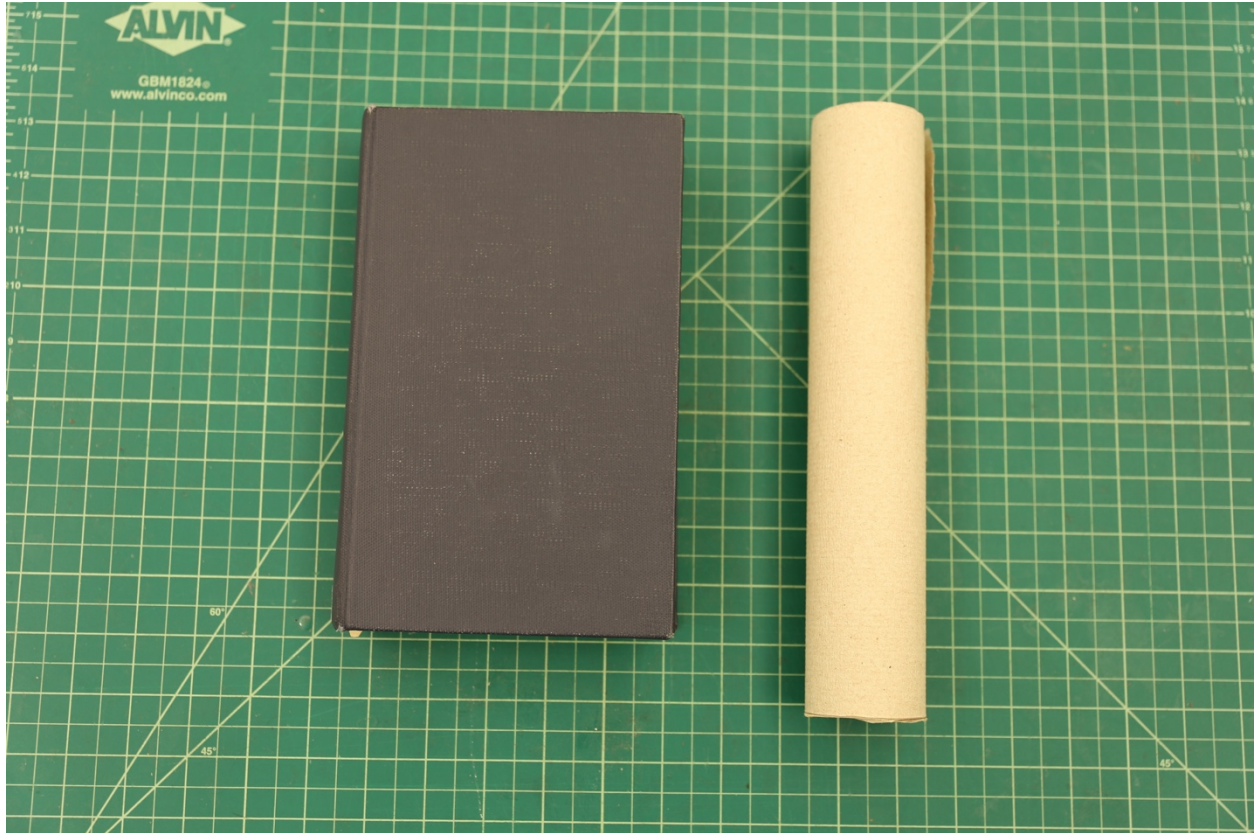


# A Simple Book Repair Manual: Air Drying Wet Books



Ideally, wet books should be freeze dried then treated. This procedure outlines what to do when the book is not totally soaked or freezing is not practical. Some papers may dry as a solid block if not dried in a timely manner. Mold can develop within 48 hours even on damp books, so immediately addressing wet books is critical.

## **Suggested Equipment & Supplies**

- Book press
- Press boards
- Fan
- Paper towels (or blotter paper)

## Procedure:

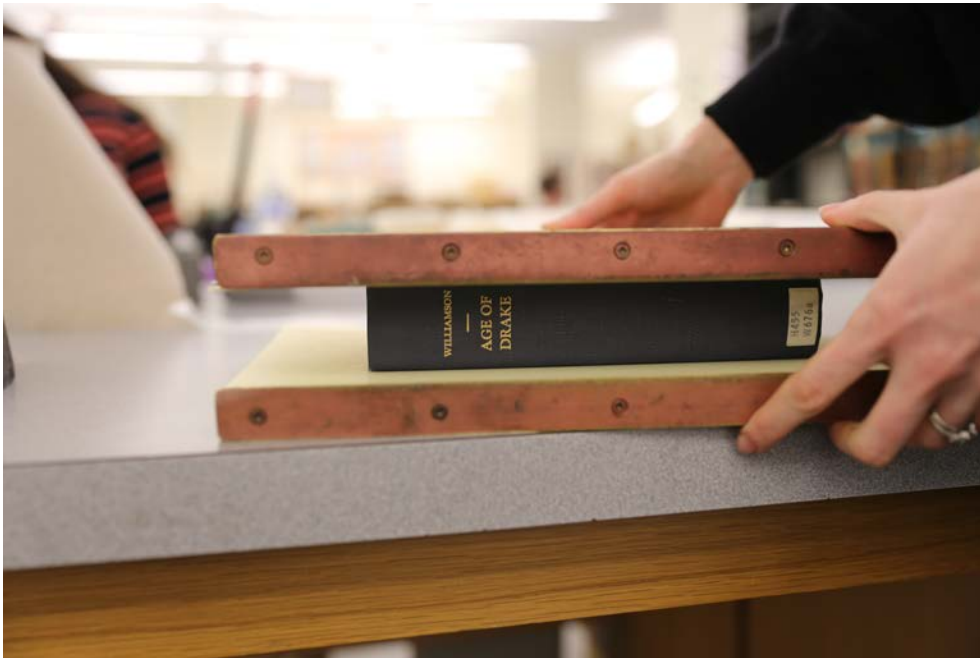
1. Blot as much water as possible using paper towels or blotter. Be careful not to rub either the cover or the wet pages.



2. Stand the book on its tail and fan open the pages. If possible dry the book in this position in the sunlight or with the use of a fan. Alternatively, dry the book in a warm dry area away from a direct heat source. The more quickly the book dries the less cockling (rippling) will occur.



3. If after drying the cover is warped, place the book between two press boards and place in a book press for several days.



4. Unfortunately, a wet book that has been air dried will never look as good as it once did but it will be dry.



**Finished:**

