

# IRON MOUNTAIN PATHOLOGY SOLUTIONS

## IN-HOUSE SPECIMEN STORAGE: SEPARATING MYTH FROM REALITY



### COST OF STORAGE

#### PERCEPTION

Outsourcing storage is more expensive than in-house solutions.

#### REALITY

Most labs aren't able to cite the actual cost of managing specimens in-house—including real estate and resource line items—on their budgets.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

Conduct a cost/value analysis to help you determine whether the benefits associated with in-house storage justify the costs and resources required to manage in-house programs. This process can also help you identify alternative methods to allocate onsite space and resources more strategically.



### TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY CONTROL

#### PERCEPTION

Temperature and humidity controls are not a priority for ambient specimen storage.

#### REALITY

The recommended temperature range for the storage of specimens is typically defined as a cool, dry environment between 64-80°F (18-27°C)\*.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

Apply controls to maintain a temperature below 80°F (27°C), across all of your storage areas to lower the risk of degradation and increase the likelihood that specimens will be able to support future research needs.



### REDUCED RISK OF LITIGATION

#### PERCEPTION

Labs place a high importance on reducing litigation risk by adequately preserving specimens.

#### REALITY

In-house storage locations can unknowingly become high-risk when storage becomes fragmented across multiple locations with varied environmental and access controls.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

Eliminate inconsistencies, increase control and improve visibility by centralizing "spill-over storage" in a scalable, temperature-controlled storage facility.



### STAFF PRODUCTIVITY

#### PERCEPTION

In-house storage enhances staff productivity because everything is onsite and easily accessible.

#### REALITY

With limited space onsite, slides and blocks must be shifted and moved frequently, absorbing the limited bandwidth of onsite resources.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

Partner with a third-party vendor to move less active, archival inventory offsite on a routine basis. This creates space for your most recent and active inventory onsite and shifts the burden of moving old inventory to the vendor, freeing up the bandwidth of your limited resources.



### EASE OF LOCATION AND ACCESS

#### PERCEPTION

Slides and blocks must be stored onsite for quick and easy access.

#### REALITY

Only about 10% of all of slides and blocks are recalled at some point, and most requests come within the first three years of slide/block storage.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

Employ a hybrid model in which you continue to store only the most recent and active specimens onsite and centralize all other specimens with an offsite vendor to gain optimal access, control and scalability.

Learn more at: [ironmountain.com/pathology-storage](https://ironmountain.com/pathology-storage).  
For a deeper dive on outsourcing specimen storage, read our [full research study](#).

\*Iron Mountain's Pathology Storage solution meets the updated 2021 CAP (College of American Pathologists) guidelines for temperature-controlled storage of slides and blocks between 64-80°F (18-27°C).

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US-PM-062822A