



KODAK RELIABLE IMAGE TIP # 85

Kodak

How long will my media last?

For storage at 20°C (68°F) & 40% RH

Retention Period - Required Storage Life	Magnetic Tape									Optical Disk				Paper			Microfilm		Retention Period - Required Storage Life	
	I-D1	Data D-2	Data D-3	3480	3490/3490e	DLT	Data 8mm / Data VHS	DDS / 4mm	QIC / QIC-wide	CD-ROM	WORM	CD-R	M-O	Newspaper (high lignin)	High Quality (low lignin)	"Permanent" (buffered)	Medium-Term Film	Archival Quality (Silver)		
1 year	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	1 year
2 years	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	2 years
5 years	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	5 years
10 years	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	10 years
15 years	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	15 years
20 years	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	20 years
30 years	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	30 years
50 years	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	50 years
500 years*	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	500 years*

Data From The National Media Laboratory

*Per ISO 18901

Legend

- Green:** ALL media should be able to survive reliably under the storage conditions listed.
- Yellow:** Only the "best" vendors will survive for the times listed.
- Red:** Even the "best" media may be unable to survive for the times indicated.

Note: Disposition charts were developed by the National Media Laboratory in 1994 to support a request from the Department of Defense. This chart was designed to be used in conjunction with document retention (disposition) schedules to determine which media types were acceptable for storing documents for the required length of time.

Media quality can vary appreciably from vendor to vendor, resulting in a range of life expectancies.

