

HUMIDIFY! HUMIDIFY! HUMIDIFY!

Low relative humidity can do more damage to your guitar than any other environmental condition. And relative humidity changes as the temperature changes. There's a scientific explanation, of course, but the important thing to know is this:

When air is heated, the humidity drops, which causes the wood on your guitar to give up moisture.

When the wood dries, it shrinks. That can cause sharp frets, a change in action, and in severe cases, top cracks.

Cold, dry Pittsburgh winters can be dangerous for guitars. When it's time to turn on your furnace, it's time to use a humidifier, and *keep your guitar in its case*. Acoustic guitars are more susceptible to dryness damage, but electric guitars can show symptoms as well.

There are different models of humidifiers, but they all act on the same principle: getting moisture into the guitar to keep it from drying out. Some simply fit in the case, but the most effective designs get right into the sound hole of acoustic guitars.

What You Should Know About the Effects of Humidity on Your Guitar

50%

is the relative humidity level to shoot for. At that level, your guitar should be in good, easily-playable condition.

At 40%

your frets might begin to feel sharp at the edges. It's also possible that the part of the fingerboard that extends over the body could develop a small crack toward the soundhole.

At 35%

guitar tops can begin to shrink. Sharp fret ends are even more noticeable.

At 30%

cracks can appear in the body. Tops can look sunken. Sometimes a higher saddle is necessary just to make the guitar playable.

At 25%

and below, more guitars crack, and lots of fret filing is needed.

NOTE: High levels of humidity (60% and above) can be just as detrimental. Metal parts can tarnish or corrode, wood components can swell, braces and bridges can become loose, and the action is often unplayably high.

Don't forget to remove your humidifier from your case when you turn off your furnace for the season!



WE KNOW GUITARS.