



New Humidor Selection, Care and Instructions

A Cigar Humidor is a decorative box that is designed to store your cigars. They can be simple in design and features or more complex units that provide electronic features. The humidor is considered to be a miniature version of the walk-in humidor where you first selected your favorite cigars, such as any Club Humidor location.

What you need:

- A humidor designed to properly store cigars
- Humidifier, usually included with your humidor
- Hygrometer, measures the humidity and temperature, if electronic.
- Humidification fluid or Distilled water. Do not use bottled or tap water.

Selecting a humidor

1. First, decide the capacity of the humidor you will need. It is recommended that you select one slightly larger than you think you will need, as many cigar smokers discover they quickly grow out of smaller units.
2. Choose one that is appealing to your decor, or preferences. Consider features in advance such as locking mechanisms for households with children.
3. Consider where your humidor will be placed in your home or office.
4. An effective humidor should have a humidifier (the device that provides humidity) and a hygrometer, the device that measures humidity and/or temperature. Most humidors are equipped with an analog hygrometer which only measures the moisture content. Digital hygrometers are far more accurate and reliable and can be purchased separately.
5. Be sure to purchase humidification fluid along with your humidor.
6. Distilled water will also be required to season your humidor.

Seasoning your humidor

Seasoning is the method of preparing your humidor for cigars.

1. Refer to the instruction provided by the manufacturer for starting up your humidor or follow the steps below if no other instructions are provided.
2. Regardless of the humidor you have chosen, they all work about the same. You will need to season your box before cigars are added.
3. First install the humidifier and hygrometer by removing the adhesive cover the devices.



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4. You'll want to attach the humidifier to the middle of the inside lid of the box. Be sure to apply pressure to the adhesive to ensure good installation. Do the same with the hygrometer allowing both to "cure" for a few hours before moisture is added.
5. When you have decided the adhesive strips are cured and will be secured within the box it's now time to add the humidifier and/or hygrometer and add moisture.
6. It is highly recommended to use a humidification fluid to fill your humidifier such as XIKAR's Propylene Glycol (PG Solution) maintains 70% RH. If none is available, then distilled water may be used as an alternative. Never use anything but distilled water or humidification fluid in your humidifier.
7. Fill the humidifier by placing the fluid on the vented slots of the device. Allow to sit for a few moments to absorb the fluid.
8. Moisten (do not soak) a clean sponge or cloth with distilled water and gently wipe the water onto the inside lid and walls of the humidor. The idea is to allow the wood to get a jump start on absorbing the moisture. Do not over saturate the wood as staining or warping could occur.
9. Gently shake the excess fluid from the humidifier and attach to the inside of the lid.
10. Allow the closed box to condition for at least 24 hours without disturbing.

Keeping your cigars

1. After 24 hours, you should have a good reading on your hygrometer indicating that your humidor is ready for cigars. A reading of 65%-70% is the goal. If the reading is not close to 65%-70% then repeat steps 7-10 or calibrate your hygrometer as per manufacturer instructions.
2. If your reading is desirable, then start placing your cigars inside the box. You may remove the cellophane if desired.
3. For the first couple of weeks you may need to check your humidity readings each day. You are looking for consistent humidity but do not become alarmed if spikes occur but try to maintain consistent readings.
4. Your box should be kept in a cool-ish area of your home or office. Do not allow the box to remain in extreme temperatures.
5. Each time you open your humidor take note of the humidity reading as well as the feel of your cigars. You should not solely rely on the hygrometer especially an analog hygrometer. Touch and feel your cigars for your desired condition.
6. Be sure to rotate your cigars regularly for even distribution of humidity.
7. Remember, humidors are not a set-up and go, they need to be maintained regularly. Get into the habit of setting a designated time to check your cigars.
8. Refill the humidifier regularly. If you notice a drop in humidity then simply remove the device and refill with fluid.



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9. If you find that your humidor is too humid, simple remove the humidifier for a day or two.

FAQ

1. What if I forget about my humidor and the cigars completely dry out?

If this happens you can restore moisture back to your cigars but you cannot restore the lost oils from the cigars. They will be smokable but will not likely be as good as when they were first purchased. The best policy is to avoid drying out your cigars all together.

2. What if I over humidify my cigars?

In a smaller desk top humidor this rarely happens but it's still possible. The damage seen from over humidified cigars is notated by the "explosion" of the foot of the cigar, a wet sponge-like texture or a soggy feel. Drying out the cigar should be done so slowly as not to shrink the wrapper. A shrunken wrapper is likely to burst or tear.

3. What is are the white spots on my cigars? Is it mold?

If the spots are white to a light gray, then your cigars have plumed. This is a natural occurrence of the crystallization of the natural oils that exists only when cigar are kept at optimal conditions for a period of time. It signifies that the cigars are perfect and ready to smoke. Simply dust off the spots with a clean dry cloth or soft brush.

4. I've noticed live bugs in my humidor, what is going on?

These are tobacco weevils and can usually be detected by small holes on the cigars, a dirt-like dust in the box or tunnels in the tobacco leaves. All cigars contain some sort of tobacco larva. While smoking the larva is not harmful in anyway, the destruction caused by them coming out of the dormant stage can be very costly. The cigars should be removed from the box and separated between those that have been infected from those that have not. Be sure to remove any dust or live weevils for the inside of the box before adding those that have not been affected. This could occur if your humidor gets too warm.

Enjoy your new humidor purchase and be sure to contact any Club Humidor Associate with questions or concerns.

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