



HUMIDORS DIRECT
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Preparing your new Humidor

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Humidor. Here are a few tips to help you with preparing your new humidor for you cigars.

The #1 rule for a Humidor owner is this: Use ONLY distilled Water as other waters can have forms of bacteria in them and over time can produce mold in your humidor.

Before you begin storing cigars it is important to first season your new humidor. Although many of you will be eager to put your new humidor out on your desk or wall unit and fill it right away, we suggest that you follow these simple steps first in order to ensure optimum performance from your new humidor.

- 1 Your humidor is lined with Spanish Cedar which is prized for its insect resistance, rot resistance, and its ability to absorb and retain moisture. Start by putting the hygrometer into your humidor (if not already in place) but hold off on inserting the humidifier.
- 2 To raise the humidity in your humidor you may need to moisten the walls of the humidor. The cedar inside your humidor will absorb moisture at a different rate than tobacco will. Wipe down the walls with a clean towel or cloth doused, once again, with only distilled water. Wipe every bit of exposed wood to lightly cover the entire surface area. Please note: do not pour water into the humidor or dampen the walls too much. A very light coating will be sufficient.
- 3 Place a small bowl of distilled water in the humidor and close the lid in order to raise the humidity. You should leave it in there with the lid closed for 24-48 hours.
- 4 Your humidity should be > 70% at this point. You may need to leave it for another day if you humidity is not at 70%. If the humidity is above 75%, leave the humidor for a day with the lid closed. If the humidity is not dropping to the 70% mark, you may need to leave the lid open for a couple of hours.
- 5 At this point, you can add the humidification device. Fill the sponge with DISTILLED WATER ONLY and insert in the humidor. Please make sure it is not dripping into the humidor. Monitor the humidor and add distilled water as needed.
- 6 Filling your humidifier: Put the humidifier on a plate and moisten it with either straight distilled water or if you prefer, you can fill it with a 50/50 solution of distilled water and propylene glycol. Propylene Glycol is an alcohol that evaporates very slowly. It helps to regulate relative humidity in your humidor and it helps prevent mildew in the humidification element. This mixture however is not necessary all the time. If desired, this mix of distilled water and PG is made in a 50/50 mixture and added to a humidification element about once every 6 months. The rest of the time, just add distilled

water. (*You can buy pure PG from most pharmacies for about \$10.00 a pint.)

7 Leave the humidifier in the liquid for about one hour. As soon as the humidifier has absorbed sufficient liquid, shake the humidifier so that liquid that was not absorbed will be removed. Now dry the outside of the humidifier with a cloth and place it in the humidor.

8 Fill humidor $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way and then, closing the lid, monitor your humidity levels for the next few days and allow it to come to equilibrium. Continue adding cigars to your humidor, leaving time for equilibrium, until all your cigars are inside.

A well-filled humidor should be aerated at least once every two week to regularly supply it with fresh air.

Please feel free to email customercare@humidorsdirect.ca with any questions you might have about your humidor.

Sincerely,
The HumidorsDirect.ca Team
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