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English



adorini

Humidor Guide

Everything you should know about humidors and correct cigar storage

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The logo for Adorini, featuring the brand name in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' in 'Adorini' is stylized with a yellow dot and a yellow horizontal bar extending to the right.

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1 Humidor Construction

1.1 Does it always have to be Spanish cedar?

Three types of wood are mainly used for the interior lining:

- Spanish cedar (by far the most commonly used)
- American red cedar
- Honduran mahogany

Spanish cedar ("cedrela odorata") offers many advantages:

- Protection against tobacco pests, which strongly dislike its smell
- High moisture absorption capacity, helping to keep the humidor climate stable and prevent mold
- Supports the aging of cigars
- Gives cigars a pleasant aroma

Contrary to what one might think, Spanish cedar generally does not come from the Iberian Peninsula. It is more commonly imported from Latin American countries. The wood used to make a humidor should be thoroughly dried beforehand to prevent resin from appearing on its surface (see also Chapter 6.5, "Humidor is bleeding sap / resin").

American red cedar does not absorb humidity as well as Spanish cedar and gives off a stronger aroma that may, over time, excessively permeate the cigars.

Honduran mahogany has moisture absorption properties comparable to Spanish cedar, but its milder aroma does not flavor cigars as delicately and it offers less resistance to tobacco pests.

For long-term cigar storage, untreated Spanish cedar is therefore the recommended material for the interior lining of a humidor.

All adorini humidors are lined with Spanish cedar.

1.2 Veneer or solid wood construction?

There are several options when constructing a humidor:

- The first uses an MDF (medium-density fiberboard) structure, veneered inside with Spanish cedar and outside with hardwood, usually cherry.
- The second consists of lining a solid-wood case with Spanish cedar; in some cases the humidor is made entirely of Spanish cedar and therefore needs no separate lining.

Contrary to popular belief, solid-wood humidors are not necessarily superior. Production costs are comparable: the meticulous construction required for veneered humidors largely offsets the higher material cost of solid-wood models. The higher humidity inside a humidor can cause the wood to swell, creating pressure on the outer structure. In some cases, this pressure may cause cracking or deformation.

The MDF construction technique reduces the risks caused by humidity and wood swelling. The MDF structure separates the rigid exterior from the inner layer that may expand. Another advantage concerns the finish: lacquer can be applied more successfully to veneer than to solid wood.

Finally, humidors made entirely from Spanish cedar are more prone to dents and damage because this wood is very soft. For all the reasons mentioned above, MDF-based construction has become the standard in humidor production.

1.3 Does the humidor have to have an airtight seal?

The humidor must close well enough to preserve a constant level of internal humidity.

1.4 Glass or wooden lid?

For short storage periods, both lid types perform similarly. For longer periods, however, a wooden lid is preferable. Cigars kept too long in a glass-lid humidor can become discolored by light. On the other hand, a glass lid lets you select a cigar without opening the humidor, reducing both opening time and the associated drop in humidity. This is why glass-lid humidors are widely used in restaurants, hotels, clubs and other places where humidors are opened frequently.

A humidified cabinet may have a glass door without risk to the cigars as long as they are stored in their original packaging and the display cabinet is not exposed to direct sunlight.

1.5 Quality criteria for humidors

The average price of humidors has fallen significantly in recent years.

Many buyers are surprised by the large price differences found on the market, especially because models often look very similar. So what are the main functional criteria for a good humidor?

A humidor must be able to maintain a constant humidity level of about 70% throughout its interior. This basic function depends on the following criteria:

- An adequate and effective humidification system. Electronic and polymer-based humidifiers are preferable to sponge humidifiers.
- An interior lining of Spanish cedar, which absorbs humidity well and helps maintain stable conditions. In addition to the correct type of Spanish cedar, the thickness of the wood is important. Linings only 1-2 mm thick do not take full advantage of Spanish cedar.
- Good air circulation. The humidor construction and tray design should allow optimum airflow throughout the interior. Insufficient air circulation is a common weakness in humidors at every price level.

The quality of a humidor is also determined by the following criteria:

- Hinges should be durable and operate with as little friction as possible for many years. Quadrant hinges are recommended for quality humidors.
- Use of an accurate hygrometer. Hair hygrometers are preferable to metal-spring hygrometers.
- A strong wooden humidor body. Solid construction improves insulation and is an important part of the humidor's value.
- Quality of the lacquer finish.

When developing the Adorini Deluxe humidors, we aimed to find the best solution for each of the criteria mentioned above. By combining sophisticated components, high-quality materials and innovative design, the Adorini Deluxe series sets quality standards in humidor construction and demonstrates that very high quality does not necessarily have to cost a fortune.

Quality Criteria of Adorini Deluxe Humidors

1



Pre-calibrated high-precision hair hygrometer, optimized for cigar storage.

2



Gold-plated acryl polymer Adorini Deluxe humidifier with adjustable ventilation for optimum humidity regulation.

3



Ventilation ribs inside the humidor ("RibTech") to improve air circulation. Adorini innovation.

4



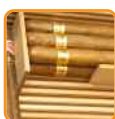
Extra-strong humidor body and extra-strong Spanish cedar lining.

5



Hygrometer and humidifier magnetically fixed under the lid by an invisible metal plate.

6



Innovative divider system for flexible individual separation. Adorini innovation.

7



Label clips for dividers. Adorini innovation.

8



Innovative tray design ("AirVent") for maximum air circulation and compatibility with the new generation of electronic humidifiers. Adorini innovation.

9



Extra-strong quadrant hinges - 24K gold-plated and hand-polished.

10



Lifetime warranty.

2 Humidifier

2.1 Optimum level of humidity

For optimum cigar storage, relative humidity should be kept between 68 and 74%. This is generally considered the range in which cigars age best, and it also promotes an even burn. At 70% relative humidity and a temperature of 18°C, the air contains about 10 grams of water per cubic meter. In this environment a cigar contains its ideal moisture level, around 14% of its weight.

A cigar that is too dry becomes fragile and burns faster because it contains less moisture to slow combustion.

When dry, a cigar tastes harsher and more bitter; when too moist, it tastes heavier and more acidic and tends to go out more often.

Some aficionados enjoy these bitter or acidic notes and intentionally keep their cigars at lower or higher humidity. Cigars can be stored safely for long periods at an average humidity of 65-75%. Caution is required if humidity reaches 80%, because the cigars may begin to mold.

2.2 Sponge or acryl polymer humidifier

Until recently, almost all humidifiers used the same basic mechanism: a sponge or foam element inside a case. This system is often called CREDO, after the French company that developed it. Because it is relatively simple to manufacture, many producers in Southeast Asia soon offered less expensive copies with comparable performance. Sponge humidifiers work best with a special propylene-glycol solution. In recent years, manufacturers have developed alternative humidification systems.

Many of these experiments were carried out at the user's expense, with even well-known manufacturers sometimes offering systems that did not stand the test of time. Today, acryl polymer humidification is the only widely established alternative to foam-based systems. When the correct polymer is used, these humidifiers are more effective at reaching and stabilizing humidity around 70%. However, it is not always guaranteed that the correct polymer is used. The material inside the humidifier has a high absorption capacity and should be refilled only with distilled water. A newly equipped humidor may take about two days to stabilize at its optimum humidity level.

Acryl polymer humidifiers are therefore particularly recommended because they are easier to maintain and keep humidity more stable than other systems. The risk of bacterial contamination is also lower, although it is not completely eliminated. To reduce this risk, the humidifier - whether sponge or polymer based - should be replaced about every two years.

With the "adorini deluxe premium humidifier", Adorini offers one of the most widely used systems in the world. The self-regulating effect of the acryl polymer is complemented by adjustable openings that allow the humidity level to be fine-tuned.

A sponge humidifier can provide sufficient humidity if it is regularly refilled with propylene-glycol solution. A polymer-based system, however, has a greater ability to keep humidity constant and restore the optimum level after the short drops caused by opening the humidor. This system also provides greater protection against bacterial contamination.

The higher price of acryl polymer humidifiers is offset over time because they do not require the regular purchase of propylene-glycol solution.

The advantages of the "adorini deluxe premium humidifier"

- Individually adjustable vents
- Gold-plated aluminum face
- New-generation acryl polymer material
- Self-regulating humidity
- No special humidifier solution required
- Effective prevention against bacterial contamination



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2.3 The secret of the correct liquid or the magical effects of propylene glycol

The following information about refilling with propylene-glycol solution applies only to sponge humidifiers. Acryl polymer humidifiers, such as the adorini deluxe premium humidifier, must be used with distilled water.

Refilling a sponge humidifier requires the following two liquids:

- Distilled water (available in supermarkets, pharmacies, auto-parts stores, etc.)
- A solution made of 50% distilled water and 50% propylene glycol.

Propylene glycol is a colorless, non-toxic liquid with two very useful properties for humidors.

First, propylene glycol is an effective means of preventing mold and bacterial contamination. Second, it allows the humidor to regulate its humidity automatically. A thin layer forms on the humidifier surface, absorbing excess moisture when humidity rises above 70% and releasing moisture when it falls below that level. On first use, a sponge humidifier may take a few days to stabilize the humidor at its optimum humidity while this layer forms.

Propylene glycol is also known as 1,2-propanediol. It must never be confused with ethylene glycol (often simply called glycol), which is highly toxic. When purchasing propylene glycol, make sure it meets appropriate quality standards.

Distilled water also helps prevent mold. Tap water contains minerals that can reduce the effectiveness of the sponge, as well as chlorine and bacteria that can contribute to mold formation.

2.4 Refilling - how often?

Polymer-based humidifiers such as the adorini deluxe humidifier generally need to be refilled about once a month. The exact frequency depends on factors such as humidifier size, number of cigars, temperature, ambient humidity and how often the humidor is opened. Sponge humidifiers require more attention. When first put into service, they should be filled only with propylene-glycol solution. Because distilled water evaporates faster than propylene glycol, the two liquids are not added at the same frequency. Distilled water should generally be added about once a month, while propylene-glycol solution should be used only when a noticeable drop in humidity occurs. Depending on ambient temperature, this may happen roughly 2-4 times a year.

3 Hygrometer

3.1 Analog or digital?

Humidors are generally supplied with an analog hygrometer. There are three main types:

- Analog hygrometer with a metal spring:
Although not very reliable, this is the most commonly used type because of its low cost.
- Analog natural-hair hygrometer:
Much more accurate than a spring hygrometer, but less common because it requires considerable maintenance.
- Analog synthetic-hair hygrometer:
Offering accuracy almost comparable to natural-hair hygrometers without the maintenance, this is the most suitable analog hygrometer for humidors.

Adorini hair hygrometers measure humidity using high-quality synthetic hair. They are produced exclusively for Adorini by a renowned German manufacturer in a special "cigar edition", optimized for the high humidity found in humidors. Hygrometers are most accurate within a limited humidity range. Ordinary room hygrometers are optimized for about 30-60% relative humidity, so their accuracy - analog or digital - decreases in a humidor, where humidity is normally above 65%. Adorini hygrometers are supplied pre-calibrated, avoiding lengthy adjustments during initial setup.

Alternatively, a humidor can be fitted with a digital hygrometer. Digital models are easy to read and do not require calibration. Adorini digital hygrometers are among the few on the market optimized for environments with relative humidity above 65%.

3.2 Measuring accuracy

Analog hygrometers should be calibrated before first use. The adorini synthetic-hair hygrometer is carefully pre-calibrated before shipment, but may need recalibration after a strong shock during transport. Its accuracy in the high-humidity range of cigar humidors is considerably better than that of metal-spring hygrometers.

Humidity measurement is less precise than temperature measurement. Even laboratory hygrometers are commonly guaranteed only to about $\pm 2\%$.

Analog hygrometers should be recalibrated at least once a year. Particular attention should be paid to changes in humidity when using a metal-spring hygrometer.

A drop in humidor humidity below about 70% is often a sign that the humidifier needs refilling: with distilled water for a polymer/crystal humidifier, or with propylene-glycol solution for a sponge system. If in doubt, the feel of the cigar can help confirm whether it is being stored under suitable conditions. A new humidor must also be prepared before cigars are added; otherwise the dry Spanish cedar lining may absorb moisture from the cigars.

Highest precision - adorini hair hygrometers

- Very high precision
- High-tech synthetic hair
- Optimized for the high humidity found in humidors
- Lifetime warranty



4 Humidor Preparation

Adorini Deluxe humidors are equipped with an adorini synthetic-hair hygrometer and an adorini "Deluxe" humidifier based on acryl polymer technology.

4.1 First step: Calibrating the hygrometer

This step is generally unnecessary with the adorini hair hygrometers supplied with Deluxe humidors. They are pre-calibrated and normally need recalibration only if they have been subjected to a strong shock during transport.

Analog hygrometers can be calibrated using two methods:

- The most accurate method is to place the hygrometer together with a salt solution in a sealed plastic box. Moisten a pinch of salt with just enough water to make a paste. Put the salt and hygrometer in the closed box. After about 8 hours, the hygrometer should read 75%; if not, adjust it with a screwdriver.
- The second method is to remove the hygrometer from the humidor and wrap it in a damp cloth. After about one hour it should read 96%; if not, adjust it with a screwdriver.

4.2 Second step: Filling the humidifier

Place the humidifier on a plate and fill it with distilled water (for polymer/crystal humidifiers) or propylene-glycol solution (for sponge humidifiers). Leave it to absorb the liquid for about 5 minutes.

Then shake the humidifier to remove excess liquid and carefully dry its surface before placing it back in the humidor.

4.3 Third step: Moistening the humidor

Gently wipe the interior lining with a cloth lightly moistened with distilled water.

Then place a glass of distilled water inside the tightly closed humidor and leave it for about 3 days so that the Spanish cedar lining can absorb enough moisture. To speed up the process and make the humidor ready in about one day, the glass of water can first be heated in a microwave.

5 Storing Cigars

5.1 Fresh air supply

A humidor should be aired at least once every two weeks to renew the air (see also Chapter 1.3, "Does the humidor have to have an airtight seal?").

5.2 Optimum temperature for cigar storage

An average temperature of 18-21°C is considered ideal for cigar storage. Below 12°C, the aging process is impaired, which is why wine cellars are generally unsuitable for storing cigars. Temperatures above 24°C may encourage tobacco-pest infestation and even deterioration of the cigars. For this reason, humidors should never be exposed to direct sunlight.

5.3 Maximum duration of storing cigars

Cigars kept in a regularly aired humidor at 65-75% relative humidity and 18-21°C can be stored for an unlimited period. High-quality cigars may even develop special flavors after several years. There is a long tradition of aging cigars, particularly in Great Britain.

5.4 Do cigars mature over time?

Before being delivered to retailers, cigars should ideally be stored for about 6 months in the producers' climate-controlled rooms. Because of increasing demand, this period is not always respected. To obtain the full flavor of the cigars, it is therefore advisable to keep them for another 3-6 months before smoking; with age, the flavor becomes smoother and more harmonious.

The optimum aging period is a matter of personal preference. Comparing cigars of the same brand at different stages of aging is a useful way to determine the storage time that best suits your taste.

5.5 Cigar "marriage"

Cigars absorb the aromas around them. They take on not only the pleasant scent of Spanish cedar but also aromas from other cigars. Although some aficionados enjoy these mixtures and deliberately store different brands together for months, it is generally not recommended to mix cigars of very different flavors or origins. Dividers help separate brands and reduce unwanted aroma transfer. Cellophane, although less attractive, can also help. The most effective solution is to use separate humidors or to keep cigars in their original boxes inside a humidified cabinet.

The innovative divider system in Adorini Deluxe humidors makes it possible to separate different types of cigars while also using the storage space efficiently.

5.6 Do cigars need to be regularly rotated?

Uneven humidity inside a humidor is a common problem, especially in nearly full humidors and in larger models.

In large humidors, humidity is often higher near the humidification system. In that case the cigars should be rotated regularly, approximately every 2-3 months. Cigars intended for the longest storage should be kept as far as possible from the humidifier. In multi-level humidors, leaving an open space in the center of the trays can improve airflow and produce a more even distribution of humidity.

The Adorini Deluxe series was designed with particular attention to maximum air circulation in order to ensure good storage conditions.

Innovative features such as ventilation ribs on the bottom and side walls, together with a special tray design incorporating ventilation openings, provide very good airflow without the need to rotate the cigars.

5.7 Should the cellophane wrap be removed before placing cigars in the humidor?

Cellophane protects cigars from drying out during transport. Inside a humidor, however, it can hinder the maintenance of optimum humidity. If cigars are stored in cellophane, the wrapper should at least be opened at the ends to allow air circulation. Removing the cellophane is a matter of preference: it may be removed for appearance and normal aging, or kept to reduce the transfer of aromas between different cigars.

Premium cigars are sometimes wrapped in Spanish cedar. Whether to keep or remove this cedar sleeve is also a matter of taste, since the wood intensifies the cigar's cedar aroma.

The logo for Adorini, featuring the brand name in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The 'i' in 'adorini' has a small orange square above it, and the 'i' in 'ni' also has a small orange square above it.

6 Frequent Problems & Solutions

6.1 Mold

Light-colored marks on a cigar can have two very different causes. Gray, dusty spots that wipe off easily with a cloth are not a cause for concern; they are a normal sign of cigar aging.

Blue-green marks are more serious: they indicate mold caused by excessive humidity. Infected cigars must be removed immediately and the humidor carefully cleaned with a dry cloth. If the humidifier shows any sign of mold, it should be replaced; otherwise it can be cleaned with hot water. Moldy cigars must never be returned to the humidor.

6.2 Tobacco worm infestation (*Lasioderma*)

Tobacco-pest infestation can occur when cigars are stored at excessively high temperatures. Small holes in the wrapper are a sign that a cigar may be infested. These pests are larvae that can grow to about 5 mm; eggs already present in some cigars can hatch when temperatures exceed roughly 22°C. Remove all cigars from the humidor and inspect them carefully, isolating any infested cigars. Clean the humidor before replacing the healthy cigars. To ensure that no larvae remain, cigars may exceptionally be frozen for a few days. This is an emergency treatment only; cigars should otherwise never be stored in a refrigerator or freezer because the very low humidity can damage them. Protect cigars from surrounding odors, and freeze and thaw them gradually to avoid cracking the wrapper leaves. Placing them in the refrigerator before and after freezing helps make the temperature change more gradual.

6.3 Humidity is too low

If the humidity level is too low, the following measures should be taken:

- Make sure the hygrometer is correctly calibrated, the humidifier has been filled appropriately, and the humidor was sufficiently moistened during initial setup.
- Refill the humidifier with distilled water as appropriate for the system.
- If humidity drops after several years of use, the humidifier may be worn out. Tap water can clog the pores of a sponge, while excessive propylene glycol can form a layer that prevents the absorption of distilled water.

A temporary drop in humidity is normal after new, relatively dry cigars are placed in the humidor. The humidity should return to its optimum level after a few days. Opening the humidor also causes a brief drop in humidity.

A deviation of a few percentage points from 70% is not a cause for concern, especially when the normal measurement tolerance of hygrometers is taken into account (see Chapters 3.1 and 3.2).

6.4 Humidity is too high

If the humidity level is too high, the following measures should be taken:

- Make sure the hygrometer is correctly calibrated, the humidifier has been filled appropriately, and the humidor was sufficiently moistened during initial setup.
- For sponge humidifiers: if propylene-glycol solution has not been added for several months, high humidity may indicate that it is time to refill with the correct solution.

A deviation of a few percentage points from 70% is not a cause for concern, especially when the normal measurement tolerance of hygrometers is taken into account (see Chapters 3.1 and 3.2).

6.5 Humidor is bleeding sap / resin

The natural oils in Spanish cedar can sometimes cause resin to form on the wood surface. This occurs mainly when the wood has not been thoroughly dried before the humidor is built. The resin is very sticky and can usually be removed only with acetone. Areas where resin has appeared should then be gently sanded with fine-grit sandpaper. The operation may need to be repeated 2-3 times, especially with a cedar lining. Resin does not harm cigar quality, but it can tear the wrapper leaves of cigars that touch it. If cleaning products have been used, ventilate the humidor thoroughly before putting the cigars back inside.

6.6 Reviving dry cigars

Placing a dried-out cigar in a properly regulated humidor can restore its normal moisture content. It generally takes about two months of correct humidification for a cigar to recover. Rehumidification must take place gradually, and dry cigars should be handled with particular care because they are fragile and can break easily.

6.7 How to get rid of annoying smells inside the humidor?

To remove unpleasant odors, first air the humidor for a few days. If this is not enough, one method is to place a glass of whisky or brandy in the closed humidor for a few days. Be aware that the aroma of the alcohol will remain in the humidor for a long time.

Some aficionados particularly enjoy brandy or whisky aromas and add two or three drops of these spirits when they first acquire a humidor.

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Torino - Deluxe

N° Art.: h106d

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Modena - Deluxe

N° Art.: h103d

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Firenze - Deluxe

N° Art.: h101d

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Milan - Deluxe

N° Art.: h125d

adorini



Pisa - Deluxe

N° Art.: h503d

adorini



Venezia (medium) Deluxe

N° Art.: h120d

adorini



Sorrente - Deluxe

N° Art.: h104d

adorini



Trieste - Deluxe

N° Art.: h116d

adorini



Vega - Deluxe

N° Art.: h202d

adorini



Genova - Deluxe

N° Art.: h122d

adorini



Santiago - Deluxe

N° Art.: h102d

adorini



Venezia (grande) Deluxe

N° Art.: h127d

adorini



Chianti (grande) Deluxe

N° Art.: h502d

adorini



Humidor Roma

N° Art.: h203s

adorini



Humidor Roma

N° Art.: h203m

adorini



Aficionado - Deluxe

N° Art.: h113d

adorini



Habana - Deluxe

N° Art.: h110d

adorini



Chianti (medium) Deluxe

N° Art.: h501d

adorini



Pyramid - Deluxe

Art.Nr: h128d

adorini



N° Art.: a130

adorini



N° Art.: a135



Art.Nr: a340

adorini



N° Art.: a120

adorini



N° Art.: a103

adorini



N° Art.: a106

adorini



N° Art.: a106s

adorini



N° Art.: a104

adorini



N° Art.: a121

adorini



N° Art.: a127

adorini



N° Art.: a101

adorini



N° Art.: a100

adorini



N° Art.: a102

adorini



N° Art.: a128

adorini



N° Art.: a111

