

HOW TO SEASON A HUMIDOR



Do Not Put Cigars in Your New Humidor

Now that you have a new humidor, the first thing to do is not put cigars inside. First and foremost, you must season a new humidor before storing your beloved stogies. This is also true for an old humidor that hasn't been used in a while. The cedar inside of a humidor is part of the humidification system, and acts to provide humidity (and flavour) to the cigars, along with the humidification device. If the cedar has not been seasoned, then the wood will rob moisture from the cigars, and dry them out. This effect is the exact opposite of what you wanted when you purchased the humidor.

Wipe the Inside of the Humidor with Distilled Water

To season a humidor, all you need is some distilled water, a clean unscented sponge or cloth, and some patience - at least for a few days. IMPORTANT - Do not use tap water in place of distilled water. Start by dampening a clean sponge or cloth with distilled water, then wipe down all the cedar wood inside of the humidor, including the lid and any trays.

Put the wet sponge on top of a piece of cellophane (or plastic bag) and place inside the humidor. Make sure that the sponge is not overly saturated, and not touching any wood.

Fill your humidification device with either distilled water or a humidifying solution per the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure that the device is not overly saturated by letting any excess water drip out (into a sink), then wipe off any drops of water on the outside of the humidification device, and place the device inside the humidor.

Now comes the hard part, close the humidor for 24 hours and wait. The next day, repeat the wipe down procedure using distilled water and the sponge, but do not leave the sponge inside this time, and wait another 24 hours. On the day after the second treatment, it should be safe to use the humidor if you cannot feel any dampness on the cedar. If so, then wait one more day before storing your cigars. If you have a hygrometer inside the humidor, ignore any higher-than-normal readings during the seasoning process. However, if the humidity is lower than 72% on the day after the second treatment, then repeat the wipe down procedure for a third time (you may also need to test your hygrometer or recharge your humidification device).

