

# Piano Humidity Control in GTA Winters: How to Stop Cracks, Drift, and Sticky Keys

*Quick reference guide by Universal Piano Services (GTA)*

## Target

42% relative humidity year round. Annual swing inside 35-50% RH.

## Why it matters

Piano is 80% wood. Soundboard, pinblock, and action all built at ~6-8% wood moisture. Dry air = cracks, pitch drop, loose tuning pins, sticky keys.

## Toronto winter reality

Indoor RH typically 15-25% Nov-Mar with forced air heat. Drier than the Sahara.

## Toronto summer reality

70-75% RH in Jul-Aug without AC. Action parts swell.

## Fix 1 - whole house humidifier

Aprilaire 600 / Honeywell HE300 on furnace. \$700-\$1200 installed. Best for forced-air homes.

## Fix 2 - large freestanding humidifier

4-6 gal/day output, console size. \$200-\$350. Place across the room. For condos and hydronic homes.

## Fix 3 - Damp-Chaser Piano Life Saver

Mounted in the piano. \$700-\$1400 installed. Required by most insurers and warranties. Refill monthly.

## Measure first

\$20 digital hygrometer on top of the piano. Log for 2 weeks Jan and 2 weeks Jul before spending money.

## What humidity will not fix

An old unserviced action. You still need tuning twice a year and regulation every 5-10 years.

## **Window condensation rule**

If outdoor temp is below -15C, do not push indoor RH above 40% or double-pane windows will fog.

*universalpianoservices.com*