

Hygrometers, chart recorders

Hygrometers

Hygrometers are simple devices that measure air humidity. While we can at least try to guess what's air temperature at the moment even without looking at a thermometer, it is much harder if not impossible to measure humidity without a hygrometer. Keeping a stable humidity level can be just as important as keeping the right temperature. High humidity can damage stored food, medicine, etc just like high temperature can. The only difference is that without a hygrometer you really have no way of knowing that something's wrong!

The older mechanical hygrometers show only the present humidity. There are more expensive mechanical hygrometers that record the humidity on a piece of paper so that you get an actual printed chart.

Increasing the hygrometers' usefulness – chart recorders

But hygrometers alone generally only show the present RH level and, unless we spend all of our time watching the readout, they tell nothing about possible humidity fluctuations. Analog chart recorders or digital data loggers record the RH level over time. They are great improvements over the older mechanical hygrometers. Newer recording hygrometers can be chart recorders or data loggers. Using chart recorders or data loggers that record humidity you can determine if your stored inventory (i.e. food, medicines, electronic materials) are being stored in the proper environment. And If they have an alarm with them they will alert you if something goes wrong so you can take action.

Example

Consider this situation – your computer room is a subject to frequent humidity changes (due to improper air conditioning, for example). Everything's all right most of the time but occasionally the humidity rises and falls. If no one is present during these times you will never realize that the environment is changing. A recording hygrometer such as a chart recorder or data logger will keep a record or even trigger an alarm so that you can take action to prevent problems.