

# CIGAR-MATE

## Using Your New Humidor

Models: CM-150, CM-300, CM-CIGFT01

Thank you for choosing Cigar-Mate for your cigar storage needs!

*\*\*Before using your new humidor, you must follow steps 1 to 3. If you do not follow these important steps, your cigars may dry out when placed inside the humidor.\*\**

### **STEP 1: Calibrating the Hygrometer**

Ideally, the humidity range within your new humidor will rest between 65-70%. In order to ensure your hygrometer delivers the most accurate reading, you must calibrate your hygrometer. Without calibrating, your hygrometer may give off an incorrect reading of +/- 14%.

You will need: 1 zip lock sandwich size plastic bag, 1 measuring spoon or soda cap, salt, and water.

1. Place the zip lock bag on a flat surface.
2. Add about a tablespoons worth of salt to a soda cap or measuring spoon.
3. Moisten the salt with water – enough to make it damp, but no dissolve.
4. Carefully place the measuring spoon or soda cap filled with your salt mixture into one side of the bag.
5. Add the hygrometer to the other side of the bag and seal. Allow the two items to rest in the sealed bag for 12 hours. After this time, the humidity level within the bag will rise to approximately 75.5%.
6. Take note of any differential between the hygrometer reading and 75.5%. This will be the number of percentage points that you must add or subtract for future readings.

*Please note: We do not recommend manually adjusting the hygrometer as this may cause damage.*

### **STEP 2: Filling the Humidifier**

Your new humidor will include one humidifier, pictured below.



View of the top of the humidifier, grates up.

In order to fill the humidifier, you will need humidification solution or distilled water and a plate.

1. Remove the humidifier from your new humidor and place it on a plate.
2. Slowly pour the solution or distilled water over the top of the humidifier.
3. Once the liquid is overflowing, wait about a minute for it to absorb completely into the humidifier.
4. Continue to add solution or distilled water until the foam inside the humidifier is totally saturated.
5. Let it rest for 15 minutes, allowing all air pockets within the humidifier to fill with fluid.
6. After 15 minutes, turn the humidifier upside down and shake out any excess liquid onto the plate. If you do not shake off the excess liquid, the humidifier will not work properly.
7. Using a dry cloth, wipe any excess liquid from the exterior of the humidifier and return it to your humidor.

*IMPORTANT: DO NOT PLACE CIGARS DIRECTLY ON TOP OF THE HUMIDIFIER.*

### **STEP 3: Seasoning the Humidor**

The interior of your new humidor is made from kiln dried Spanish cedar, which is the ideal wood for the aging of cigars. Before you introduce your cigars to your humidor, you must humidify or season the interior wood.

To season your humidor, you will need: a clean cloth or sponge and humidification solution or distilled water.

1. Apply a liberal dose of solution or distilled water to the clean cloth or sponge.
2. Wring out any excess liquid to prevent over humidifying your humidor.
3. Test a small area of the cedar by wiping it with your newly damp sponge or cloth. If the wood turns a very dark color, wring out your sponge or cloth again.
4. Once you have completed the test and have the correct amount of liquid in your cloth or sponge, wipe down the cedar interior including any trays, sides, or dividers.
5. Once the humidor has been seasoned, you may add your cigars.

Repeat this process anytime the humidity level within your humidor drops below 60%.

### **STEP 4: Add Your Cigars**

Once your humidor has been properly seasoned and the humidifier is in place, you may begin to add your cigars. We recommend un-wrapping your cigars of their cellophane before placing them inside. If you choose to store them inside their boxes to prevent multiple flavors from mixing, you must un-wrap them of all cellophane packaging to allow them to breathe in the benefits of being stored inside a humidor.

### **FAQs**

Q1. My cigars feel dried out.

A1. You need to refill your humidifier. Please note that it may take some time for a new humidor to break in. In the beginning, check your cigars daily for freshness by squeezing the foot of the cigar.

Q2. My cigars are too moist.

A2. Air out your humidor by leaving the lid or door open for about 1 to 2 hours. The proper humidity range for cigars is 70-75%.

Q3. Why can't I use tap water to moisten the humidifier or season the humidor?

A3. Tap water and some bottled waters contain trace minerals that may leave build-up in your humidor or on your cigars. They may even produce mold! Distilled water has been purified of all trace elements or minerals.

Q4. Why must I remove the cellophane wrapping from my cigars before placing them in my humidor?

A4. The cellophane wrapping placed around new cigars hinders the cigar from receiving the benefits of being placed inside a humidor. The cigar must be able to "breathe" in the environment created by the humidifier.