

Home Humidity and Dehumidifier Checklist

General target: 30% to 50% RH. Keep indoor RH below 60%.
Fix leaks and water entry before relying on a dehumidifier.

1. Three-day room log

Date/time	Room	Temp	RH	HVAC	Windows	Activity	Condensation/odor

Interpretation

- ☐ Below 30%
- ☐ 30% to 50%
- ☐ 50% to 60%
- ☐ Above 60%
- ☐ Above 75%
- ☐ Above 90%

Moisture Source Check

Exterior water

- ☐ Roof or window leak
- ☐ Gutter overflow
- ☐ Downspout near foundation
- ☐ Poor grading
- ☐ Foundation crack
- ☐ Groundwater or seepage
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Crawl-space ground moisture

Plumbing and equipment

- ☐ Supply or drain leak
- ☐ Water heater leak
- ☐ Sump problem
- ☐ HVAC condensate problem
- ☐ Refrigerator or ice-maker leak
- ☐ Washing-machine hose
- ☐ Dishwasher leak
- ☐ Pipe condensation

Indoor moisture

- ☐ Showering
- ☐ Cooking
- ☐ Indoor laundry drying
- ☐ Unvented dryer
- ☐ Aquarium
- ☐ Humidifier
- ☐ Open windows in humid weather
- ☐ Wet stored materials

Ventilation and HVAC

- ☐ Bathroom fan works and exhausts outdoors
- ☐ Kitchen exhaust works
- ☐ Dryer exhausts outdoors
- ☐ AC drain works
- ☐ HVAC not short-cycling
- ☐ Exterior windows and doors close

Area and Capacity Planning

Room 1 length:

Room 1 width:

Room 1 area:

Room 2 length:

Room 2 width:

Room 2 area:

Connected total area:

Dampness

- ☐ Slightly/moderately damp: 50% to 75% RH
- ☐ Very damp: 75% to 90% RH
- ☐ Wet: 90% to 100% RH or seepage

Portable capacity starting point

Condition	Under 2,000 sq. ft.	Over 2,000 sq. ft.
Slight/moderate	20-30 pints/day	30+ pints/day
Very damp	25-40 pints/day	40+ pints/day
Wet	30-50 pints/day	50+ pints/day

Adjust for

- ☐ Low temperature
- ☐ High ceiling
- ☐ Open stairs/rooms
- ☐ Laundry load
- ☐ Air leakage
- ☐ Continuous water entry
- ☐ Whole-home need

Current pint ratings use a newer, cooler test than many pre-2020 units. Repair seepage and leaks first.

Placement, Drainage, and Operation

Placement

- ☐ Stable level dry surface
- ☐ Correct clearance
- ☐ Intake and discharge clear
- ☐ Temperature within rating
- ☐ Direct wall outlet
- ☐ No unapproved extension cord or power strip
- ☐ Bucket accessible
- ☐ Drain route safe

Drainage

- ☐ Bucket seated and float moves
- ☐ Gravity hose slopes down
- ☐ No kink or clog
- ☐ Outlet not submerged
- ☐ Pump hose secure
- ☐ No trip hazard

Operating log

Date/time	RH before	Setpoint	Runtime	Water	RH after	Notes

Judge success by room RH and moisture conditions, not bucket volume alone.

Maintenance, Safety, and Final Decision

Maintenance

- ☐ Filter checked
- ☐ Grilles clear
- ☐ Bucket cleaned
- ☐ Hose flushed
- ☐ Drain inspected
- ☐ Coils not iced
- ☐ Cord and plug undamaged
- ☐ CPSC recall search completed

Stop using the unit for

- ☐ Smoke or burning odor
- ☐ Melted or hot plug
- ☐ Hot outlet
- ☐ Sparks
- ☐ Repeated breaker trips
- ☐ Water in electrical parts
- ☐ Damaged cabinet
- ☐ Recalled model

Seek professional help for

- ☐ Active seepage or flooding
- ☐ Sewage
- ☐ Extensive or recurring mold
- ☐ Structural damage
- ☐ Wet electrical system
- ☐ Unsafe crawl space
- ☐ Whole-home system
- ☐ RH remains uncontrolled after source repair

Final decision

- ☐ No equipment needed
- ☐ Improve ventilation
- ☐ Repair leak or drainage
- ☐ Use portable dehumidifier
- ☐ Replace malfunctioning unit
- ☐ Evaluate whole-home system
- ☐ Evaluate AC/HVAC issue
- ☐ Professional moisture assessment

Target RH: _____