



Now, You can Keep Your Piano  
On Pitch *Constantly*  
and also  
Double its Life.

*Piano*

**LIFE SAVER SYSTEM<sup>®</sup>**

from  
**DAMPP-CHASER**



**MADE IN USA**  
SINCE 1947

# Today, Piano Life Saver Systems® Protect Over **520,000** Pianos Worldwide.



Since 1947, Damp-Chaser Corporation has worked to provide the best technology available to protect pianos like yours from the damaging effects of environmental changes.

## *How the Piano Life Saver Benefits You and Your Piano:*

- Stabilizes pitch and permits tunings to hold better and longer (the tuning will not go sharp or flat when the weather or room humidity changes);
- Minimizes the expansion and contraction of action parts which provides optimum touch and predictable keyboard control;
- Minimizes glue failure throughout the piano;
- Prevents rust on strings and metal parts;
- Minimizes felt deterioration, reducing the harsh tones that come from flattened hammer felt in low humidity or the muffled tones from swollen hammer felt in high humidity;
- Protects the piano's investment value year after year.

# Leading Piano Manufacturers **Recommend** the Piano Life Saver.

## **BALDWIN**

"Baldwin recommends the Damp-Chaser system as a valuable means to help insure the longevity and stability of our pianos."

## **BÖSENDORFER**

"The usage of Damp-Chaser humidity control systems effectively compensates climatic changes within the piano's environment and is for that reason beneficial in terms of stability and long term reliability."

## **KAWAI**

"Your Damp-Chaser humidity control systems are the best and most carefully designed systems we have seen."

## **PEARL RIVER**

"Pearl River Piano Group USA believes that a properly installed and maintained Damp-Chaser system can enhance the performance and longevity of our pianos."

## **SCHIMMEL**

"The best way to preserve the value of fine grands and uprights is to automatically regulate the relative

humidity right within the instrument...with a System from Damp-Chaser Corporation."

—*from Nikolaus Schimmel*

## **SEILER**

"The Damp-Chaser Humidity Control System helps retain both the regulation and pitch of top quality instruments, thus stabilizing the tonal character inherent in a particular make of instrument as well as its long-term value."

—*from Ursula Seiler*

## **STEINWAY & SONS, U.S.A.**

"The installation of a Damp-Chaser Humidity Control System can, in our opinion, provide a degree of climate control for the piano which may not be otherwise attainable."

## **YAMAHA**

"...Yamaha fully endorses the use of such systems with Yamaha pianos in areas that are subject to extremes in humidity."

**THE PROBLEM**

All Wood **Shrinks** and **Swells** with Humidity Changes. Your Piano is Made, Primarily, of Wood.

**RESULTS OF SHRINKING AND SWELLING**

*Pitch Instability.* Your piano must have stable pitch to hold a tuning well.

*Cracking and Splitting* of wooden piano parts, which brings costly repairs.

*Glue Failure* throughout the piano, which also brings costly repairs.



Like the keys on your piano, doors stick in high humidity.



Like the glued joints in your piano, furniture joints loosen in dry conditions.

# The System Prevents Pitch from Going “Sharp” or “Flat” with Humidity Changes in Your Home.

*This Chart* demonstrates how drastically pitch can change when your piano is exposed to humidity fluctuations.



▲ In Dry Conditions the Pitch becomes “FLAT.”

▲ In Humid Conditions the Pitch becomes “SHARP!”

# The System **Saves You Money** by Avoiding the Extra Expense of Pitch Adjustments.

*If your piano is “off-pitch”* due to humidity fluctuations, your tuner will need to adjust the string tension to achieve proper pitch before he/she can even begin to do a fine tuning. Pitch adjustments are time-consuming and you will pay twice as much to have the piano tuned when it's off-pitch.

## IMPORTANT

Pianos that have drifted radically off-pitch will usually go out of tune quickly after they are tuned.

### CHURCHES



### UNIVERSITIES



Pianos in Churches and Universities  
are constantly subjected to humidity extremes. Piano tuners  
in those settings rely on the Piano Life Saver to keep pitch stable.

Which Churches and Universities use the System in their pianos?  
Check this webpage: [www.PianoLifeSaver.com/reports](http://www.PianoLifeSaver.com/reports)

## The System Prevents Shrinking and Swelling of the Soundboard, thus stabilizing the pitch.



### *Moist Conditions*

As the soundboard absorbs moisture from the air

surrounding the piano, it swells, producing an upward bulge. Through the bridge, this puts additional tension on the strings. Now, the pitch is too high (**sharp**) in the lower mid-range and extreme treble strings.



### *Dry Conditions*

When the soundboard shrinks and flattens, the

tension of strings over the bridge becomes inadequate.

The pitch of the mid-range and treble strings is now **flat**.

### *Cracked Soundboard*

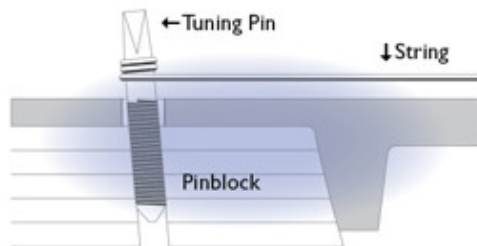
Over time, constant changes in humidity levels, with the corresponding

shrinking and swelling of the soundboard, will damage the integrity of the soundboard.

Initially, you will see this damage in the form of a crack in the wood.



The System minimizes tuning-pin movement... which also helps **stabilize pitch**.



### *Moist Conditions*

The strings of your piano are held tight by the pins in the pinblock. As the pinblock absorbs moisture in periods of high humidity, it swells, crushing the wood fibers against the pin.

### *Dry Conditions*

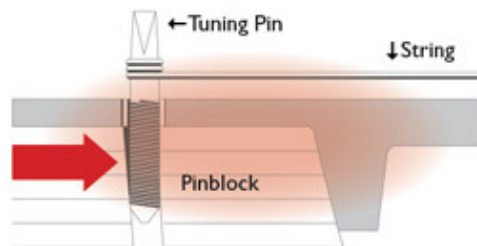
In dry periods, the wood shrinks away from the pin loosening it and causing the string to sag. When this cycle is repeated time after time, the wood fibers surrounding the pin are destroyed and lose their resilience.

loosening it and causing the string to sag. When this cycle is repeated time after time, the wood fibers surrounding the pin are destroyed



### *Damaged Pinblock*

In the picture to left, this pinblock (without pins) was removed from a piano during restoration. With continuous swelling and shrinking, the wood could no longer provide the snug fit required to hold pins in place.





## The System improves keyboard control noticeably.



### *Sticking Keys*

Just as doors and drawers become tight with high humidity and loose in dry air, the keys of your piano may stick down when struck in times of high humidity. When the environment surrounding your piano is dry the keys may seem to rattle when played.



### *Sluggish Action*

As you play your piano, you will notice how responsive the keys are to your touch. The way the keys cause the wood hammers to strike the piano strings is part of thousands of interconnected wooden parts called the piano action. With high moisture levels in the piano action, the action is sluggish, and the keys seem non-responsive to your touch.

The System **prevents rust** on metal parts from high humidity.



### *Rusted Strings*

The strings of your piano are responsible for producing the musical sounds. With exposure to high humidity levels over long periods, strings become rusted and corroded.

### *Rusted Pins*

At the junction where rusted strings wrap around rusted pins, rust corrosion forms a hardened bond between the two. Then, during a tuning, when your piano technician turns the pins to stretch the strings, the inflexible, rusted string snaps at this joint.



## The System compared with other methods.

	Portable "Room" Equipment	Piano Life Saver System
Monthly Electrical Cost	<b>\$31.50</b> (Dehumidifier, covers 350 sq. ft.)	<b>\$2.79</b> (Grand System)
Noise Level and Appearance	Noisy, Intrusive, Unattractive, Messy	Silent, Installed Out-of-View, Not Messy
Piano Owner Water Responsibility	You empty or fill reservoir every day	You fill reservoir twice a month
Monitoring of Humidity	Requires daily monitoring with a Hygrometer	The System automatically monitors humidity
Mold Growth and Home Structural Damage	In cold weather; Room Humidifiers can drive moisture into walls, causing mold growth & structural damage.	System does not cause mold growth or structural damage to your home.

### Whole-House Air Conditioner

Air conditioners turn on and off to maintain a desirable temperature. When this temperature is achieved, the unit turns off, no matter what humidity level is achieved. In addition, most whole-house air conditioners are unable to reduce the relative humidity lower than 60% which is outside the safe zone for pianos.

### Whole-House Humidifier

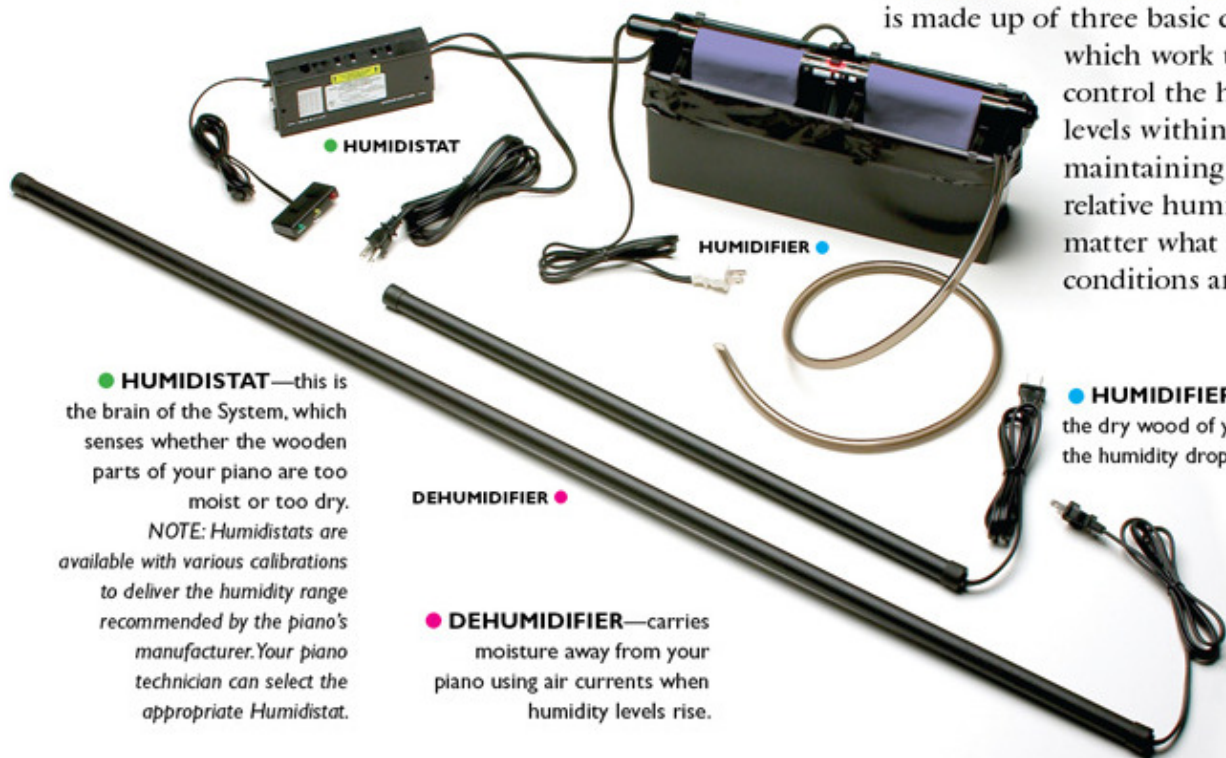
Most furnace humidifiers have the same limitations as air conditioners: when the furnace has achieved the desired temperature, both the furnace and the humidifier turn off, no matter what humidity level is attained in individual rooms.

**THE TEST:** *If your whole-house air conditioner and furnace humidifier are effectively keeping the humidity stable, the pitch of your piano will not go sharp or flat with weather changes*

## How the System Works.

### The *PIANO LIFE SAVER SYSTEM*

is made up of three basic components which work together to control the humidity levels within your piano, maintaining consistent relative humidity, no matter what the external conditions are.



● **HUMIDISTAT**—this is the brain of the System, which senses whether the wooden parts of your piano are too moist or too dry.

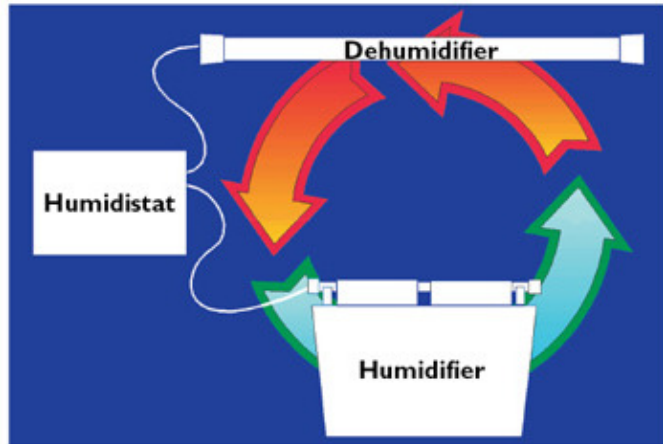
*NOTE: Humidistats are available with various calibrations to deliver the humidity range recommended by the piano's manufacturer. Your piano technician can select the appropriate Humidistat.*

● **DEHUMIDIFIER**

● **DEHUMIDIFIER**—carries moisture away from your piano using air currents when humidity levels rise.

● **HUMIDIFIER**

● **HUMIDIFIER**—moisturizes the dry wood of your piano when the humidity drops.



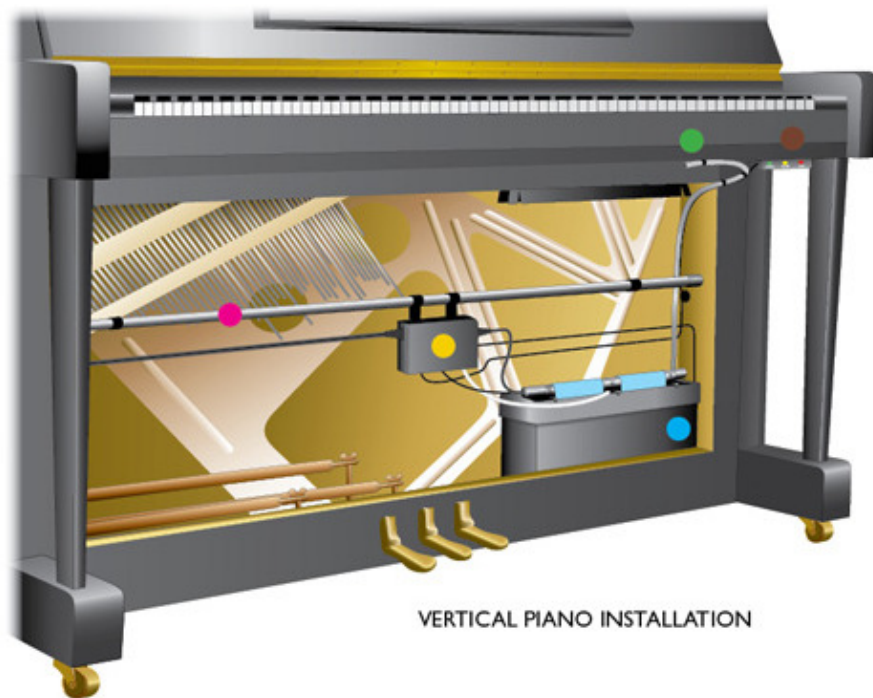
*Through a cycling action,* the Humidistat is calibrated to create a separate environment within the piano, producing a narrow range of average humidity. When the Humidistat, located less than an inch from your soundboard, senses that the wood is dry, it turns the power on the Humidifier. Then, when the Humidifier has provided enough



The PIANO LIFE SAVER SYSTEM comes with a watering system to allow you to keep the Humidifier supplied with water. Typically, you will need to add one gallon of water twice monthly.

moisture to the soundboard, the Humidistat turns off the Humidifier and turns the power on the Dehumidifier. The Dehumidifier carries away moisture from the soundboard on air currents until the Humidistat again senses that the soundboard is dry. The System again switches to the humidifying function. The cycle continues day after day, year after year, protecting your piano from external conditions.

The *Piano* LIFE SAVER SYSTEM works automatically and silently inside your piano.



VERTICAL PIANO INSTALLATION

### *The System*

- Humidifier
- Dehumidifier
- Easy-Fill Watering Tube
- 3-Light Panel  
*(Can be installed out of view)*
- Humidistat

*Each*  
*Piano* LIFE SAVER SYSTEM  
*carries a*  
5-Year Warranty

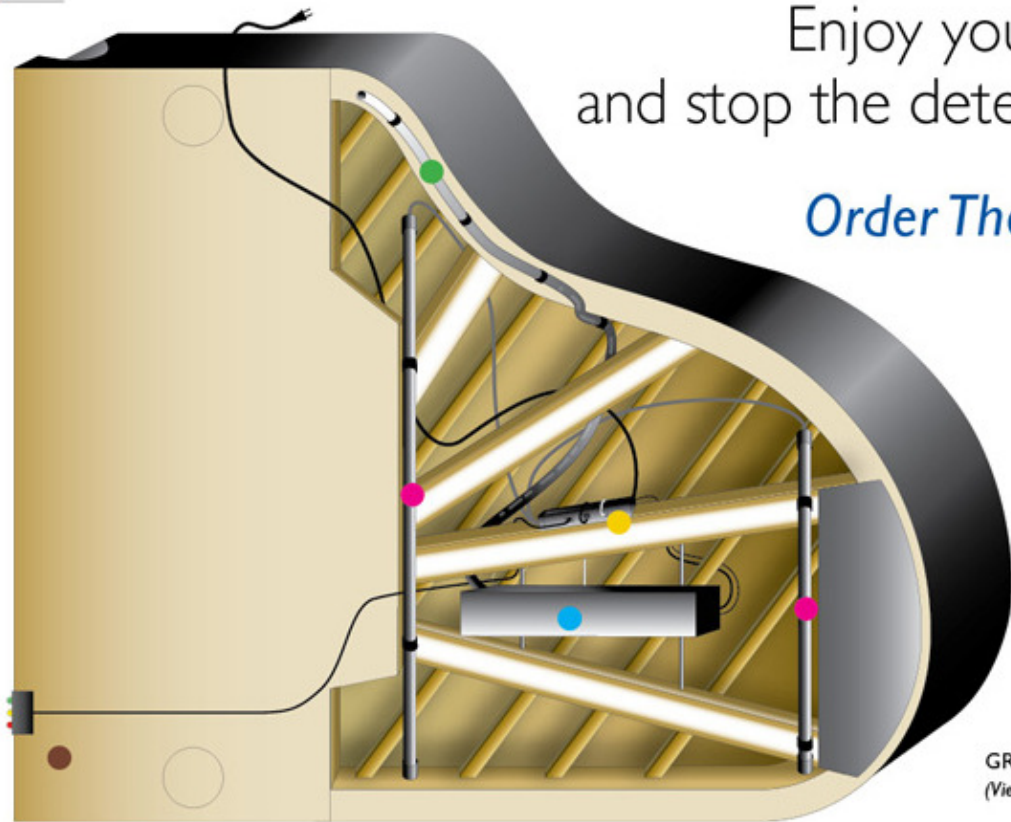
Enjoy your piano more  
and stop the deterioration **now**.

*Order The System today!*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The System must be installed by a professional piano technician. Only a technician can be sure that each component is located for optimal effectiveness and protection.

GRAND PIANO INSTALLATION  
*(View from underneath the piano.)*





*Paper made from 30% recycled  
fiber using timber from managed  
forests. Chlorine free.*

*To Order the System, Contact:*

**MADE IN USA**  
SINCE 1947



[www.PianoLifeSaver.com](http://www.PianoLifeSaver.com)

Dampp-Chaser Corporation, Hendersonville, NC, U.S.A.