



Roger Grochmal, P.Eng., President

An Atlas Special Interest Publication

What You Need to Know About Your Flow-Through Humidifier

How Much Water Does My Humidifier Use?

Power humidifiers (those that work with a furnace) fall into two categories: drum-style and flow-through. Drum-style humidifiers generate humidity by passing air over a pan of water. Because the water is stagnant, it can easily become a breeding ground for molds and bacteria. To prevent germ growth, flow-through humidifiers are designed to use a continuous stream of fresh water. That's why these humidifiers use a little more water than drum humidifiers do. However, it isn't much more: the difference is equivalent to 2–3 toilet flushes per day.

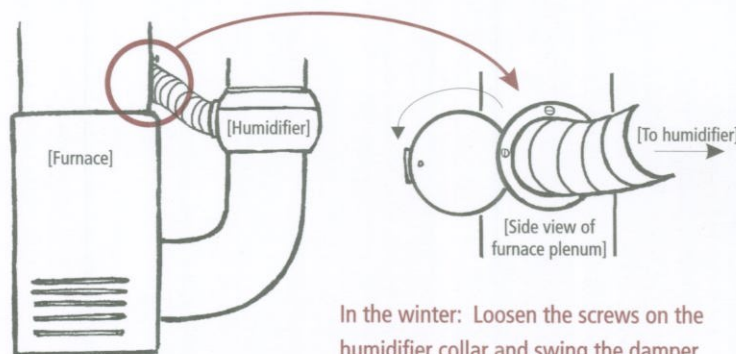
How Do I Control My Humidifier?

The humidifier is controlled by a humidistat. This is usually mounted on the return air ductwork above the humidifier. The ideal level of humidity in your home is between 30 and 55%. If the air feels dry, turn the humidistat up (this will call for more humidity to be added to the air). Let your windows be your guide: if they begin to fog or ice up, then you should reduce the humidity in your home by turning the humidistat down. (This may mean a very low setting if the weather is extremely cold.) Keep an eye on the windows and adjust the humidistat accordingly.

An important note about dampers

Most humidifiers have a summer/winter damper. This damper must be closed in the summer, otherwise your air conditioner won't get enough airflow and it will freeze up. In the winter, the damper should be open. The Atlas, General, and some other newer humidifier models have an

internal damper with a control knob on the humidifier. This knob should be set to **med** or **hi** in the winter and **low** in the summer. If your humidifier does not have a control knob, the damper will have to be unscrewed and pulled out in the summer to allow enough air to reach the air conditioner (see diagram, below).



In the winter: Loosen the screws on the humidifier collar and swing the damper outwards. Close it back up in the summer.

For Further Information

If you have questions about your humidifier, please call us. You can also order back issues of *An Engineer's Opinion* that deal specifically with humidity and its control. The two editions available are "Humidity Concerns for a Healthy Home" and "The Thirsty House: How to Choose a Humidifier." To request copies, please call one of the numbers listed below. Alternatively, you can email us at moreinfo@atlasair.ca, and a .pdf version of the newsletters will be emailed to you.

Mississauga (905) 279-3440

Toronto (416) 626-1785

Burlington (905) 331-5751

Stoney Creek (905) 643-4085

Hamilton (905) 561-8774

info@atlasair.ca

www.atlasair.ca