

# Piano

## LIFE SAVER SYSTEM®

from  
**DAMPP-CHASER**



# VERTICAL PIANO

## 5-PART SYSTEM

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**TOOLS REQUIRED:** Cordless screwdriver or hand-held nut driver with magnetic 1/4" hex head or #2 Phillips bit, chalk, 30 mm drill bit, scissors, 15 cm x 15 cm piece of plywood or similar



### LIST OF COMPONENTS:

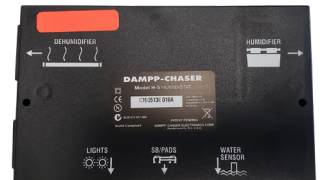
Adjustable length  
Dehumidifier  
92cm-38W



3-Light Panel



Humidistat



Watering Can



Humidifier Assembly (Low Water Sensor, Smart Bracket, Humidifier Heater Bar, Watering Tube, Wicking Pads)



Y-Brackets (2)



Moisture Distribution  
Baffle

### CONTENTS OF HARDWARE KIT:



Assortment of small and large  
screws  
1/4" hex & #2 Phillips

2 Pin-pegs



Assorted clamps



2 screw hooks



2 Stand-offs



2 half clamps



Assorted twist and zip ties



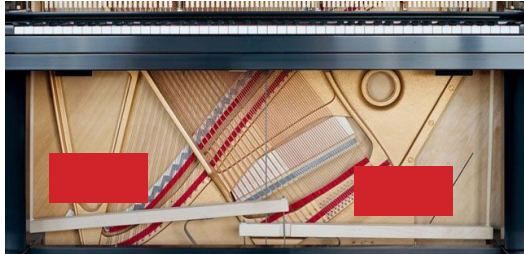
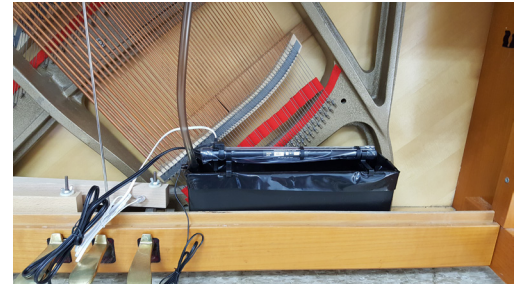
### INSTALLER

1. Please carefully read and follow all installation instructions.
2. Do not place a Dehumidifier in the action of any piano.
3. The System will change the moisture content in the wood of the piano. Therefore, wait at least three weeks before tuning.
4. Please inspect the power cord each time the piano is serviced and replace if damaged.
5. The Piano Life Saver System must be installed by a professional piano technician. Failure to do so will void all warranties, whether stated or implied.
6. The 5-year Limited Warranty on the System covers parts only. Dampp-Chaser Corp. assumes no responsibility for labor costs related to repairs or maintenance.

## STEP 1: PLANNING THE INSTALLATION

There are two installation options for vertical pianos. To determine which method you will be employing, start by removing the bottom panel.

The easiest way to install the Humidifier tank is to set it on the floor of the piano, usually on the treble side.



If this is not possible because of trapwork extending to both sides of the piano or thick plate struts, you will have to suspend the tank. It can be hung on either side of the piano.

In both cases, ensure you can close the bottom board with the Humidifier tank in place.

**There are two specifications that are important to remember regardless of which type of installation you choose.**

1. The Dehumidifier must be mounted 35 cm from the bottom of the Humidifier tank, whether it is sitting on the floor of the piano or is suspended.
2. The Humidistat must be mounted 5 cm to the side of the Humidifier tank.

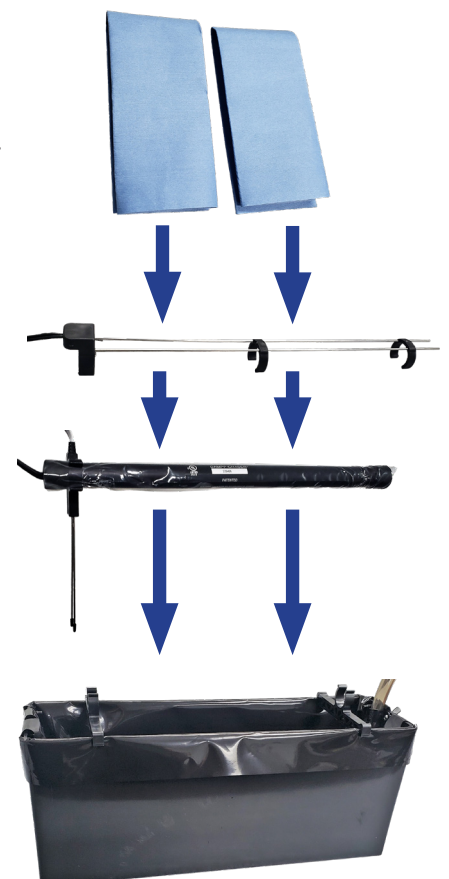
## STEP 2: PREP THE HUMIDIFIER

Remove the Humidifier tank from the System box. Take the Pads and 3-Light Panel out of the tank. Carefully remove the plug ends of the Smart Bracket, Humidifier Heater Bar and Low Water Sensor from the tank, making sure they don't get hooked on the LWS probes.

Drape the pads over the Humidifier heater bar as shown.



**Always mount the Smart Bracket OVER the Clean Sleeve to prevent the red PADS light from blinking constantly.**



The Humidifier assembly is now ready to install in the piano.



### STEP 3: DEHUMIDIFIER

Install the Dehumidifier using the Vertical Dehumidifier Brackets (VDB) and 2 short screws. The hole in the top of the bracket must be 38 cm from the bottom of the Humidifier tank. This will provide the proper spacing between the Humidistat and the Humidifier tank.



To achieve this height, use either the guide across the top of pages 4 and 5 or place the empty tank on end inside the piano. For a suspended installation, set the tank on the top of the trapwork but mark 3 cm higher than the hole so the tank will clear the trapwork.

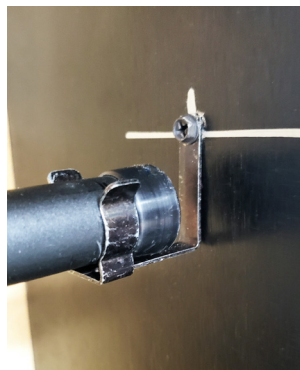
Position the Dehumidifier in the piano to determine the correct front to back location. Ensure it does not contact the plate and pedal rods. It may be necessary to mount the Dehumidifier at a slight front to back angle.



Mark an intersecting spot on the chalk line at the point that allows unimpeded mounting.



Insert a short screw into your magnetic driver and hang the VDB on it. Screw one VDB into each side of the piano.



Snap the adjustable length Dehumidifier into the VDB on each side of the piano and recheck for clearance.



If the Dehumidifier is slightly touching something, loosen the screw and pivot the VDB to gain clearance. Re-tighten the screw when the Dehumidifier is clear of everything.

### STEP 4: HUMIDIFIER (FLOOR)

**If you are suspending the tank, please skip to STEP 5.**

Place the Humidifier in a location where it sits level and does not interfere with the trapwork or touch the strings.



Most commonly, the tank is oriented so that the watering tube is on the right, but this is not imperative.

Using the attached Velcro®, adhere the moisture distribution baffle to the underside of the keybed directly above the Humidifier tank.



You may need to trim the baffle with scissors to clear plate struts. You may opt to secure the baffle by using the push pins as well. Pushing them through the Velcro® works well.

**It is very important that the baffle is installed to prevent any condensation from building up under the keybed.**

## STEP 5: HUMIDIFIER (SUSPENDED)

Locate a position where you can suspend the Humidifier tank. Remove the 4 self-locking screws from the corners of the tank and use them to attach the Y-brackets to the inside of the tank.

Using the attached Velcro®, adhere the moisture distribution baffle to the underside of the keyedbed directly above the Humidifier tank. You may need to trim the baffle with scissors to clear plate struts.

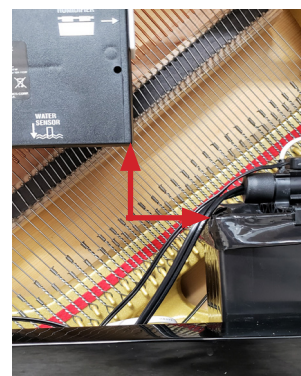


Screw the hooks through the baffle into the keyedbed 35 cm apart. Screw them in at least 8 full turns.

Determine which of the holes in the Y-bracket will allow the tank to hang as low as possible without contacting the trapwork. Trim the Y-brackets above this hole. Hang the tank from the hooks, ensuring it is level.



Position the Humidistat so the corner of the Humidistat is 5 cm higher than the corner of the Humidifier tank and 5 cm to the side of it.



## STEP 7: CONNECT COMPONENTS

The Humidifier and Dehumidifier plugs and outlets are color coded and clearly labeled to ensure proper connection. Plug the black Dehumidifier plug into the black outlet that is labeled Dehumidifier (left hand side). Plug the white Humidifier plug into the white outlet that is labeled Humidifier (right hand side).



## STEP 6: HUMIDISTAT

The Humidistat hangs from the Dehumidifier by these stand-offs.



Insert the foot of the stand-off into the opening on the top of the Humidistat, and rotate 1/4 turn.

Snap the stand-offs onto the Dehumidifier.



The white cable coming from the Humidifier assembly is for the Low Water Sensor. Plug it into the underside of the Humidistat.



The Smart Bracket cable is smaller and black and has a headphone style jack on the end of it. Plug it into the underside of the Humidistat as shown above.



## STEP 8: LIGHT PANEL

Select a location for the light panel where it is easily visible to the piano owner. A good place is next to the leg on the treble side. This placement prevents the red light cube from coming loose and getting lost. Mount the panel using 2 of the long screws or Velcro®.



Run the cable along the underside of the keyboard and into the body of the piano. Use 1/8" clamps and short screws to secure the cable. Once the cable is inside the piano, plug it into the Humidistat as shown.



**Do not leave any cables in contact with the Dehumidifier.**

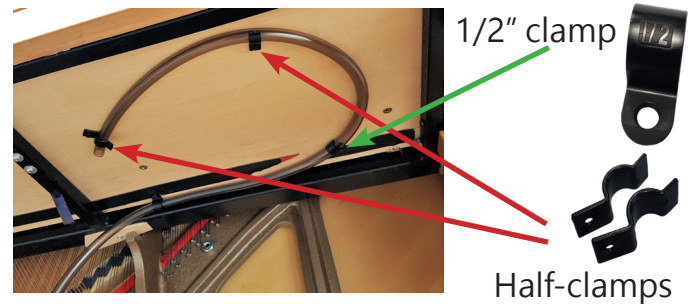
If you opt for a location where the red light cube is not secure, use the small clamp shown here and a short screw to keep it in place.



**Please ensure the light cube is secure since it is not hard to remove and could get lost or become a choking hazard for children or pets.**

## STEP 9: WATERING TUBE

The watering tube can be routed to the outside of the piano in several ways. If there is room, route it over the top of the bottom board and attach it to the underside of the



keybed using at least one of the 1/2" clamps and the two half clamps. It can be curled up as shown below. Attach the clamps with the short screws.

If there is not enough of a gap to route the tube in this manner, you can run it up the side of the piano so it can be accessed by lifting the lid.



Make sure the tube can be tucked out of the way so there are no playability issues with the piano. Tell the owner to be make sure the tube is emptied properly to keep water from dripping into the piano.

Direct the piano owner to fill while holding the watering can to the side of the piano to reduce the chance of water spilling into the piano.

You may also notch the bottom board to create enough room for the watering tube if the owner is agreeable.

*Notching the bottom board is not recommended for pianos with a polyester finish as the polyester is brittle and can crack or chip easily.*



## STEP 10: POWER CORD

In order to plug the System in, the power cord must exit the piano. There are several possible ways of doing this. Pick what works best for you and the piano owner.

A) Some pianos are not completely closed in from the bottom. Route the cord out any suitably sized pre-existing opening.

B) Route the cord over the bottom board and around the side if the customer is agreeable to having the cord visible.

C) Drill a 30 mm hole in the bottom of the piano. A Forstner bit like this makes a nice clean hole. If you chose this option, first select a spot to drill.



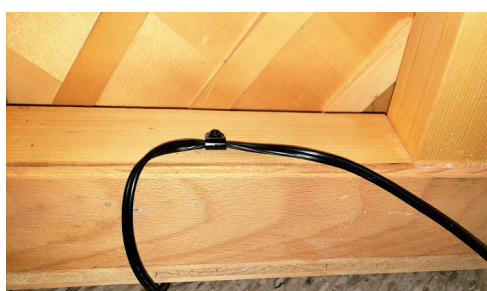
Usually the bottom right corner is the best bet. Place a sacrificial board under the piano to protect the flooring in the home when the drill bit breaks through.

Vacuum up the debris.

**Obtain permission from the piano owner before proceeding with this option.**



In all situations, secure the power cord with a 3/16" clamp and short screws to one of the cross members on the back of the piano. This will provide strain relief in the event someone tries to move the piano without unplugging it.



## STEP 11: HOUSEKEEPING

Gather up any extra cable length and bundle it up using zip or twist ties. Tuck the bundles in a location that ensures they will not be in the way of the trapwork or contact the strings.

Ensure all the components are plugged into the appropriate outlet and plug the Humidistat into a wall outlet that is not controlled by a light switch. Wrap the STOP sticker around the power cord.

Confirm proper operation of the System by looking at the light panel. The green POWER light should be on solid while the yellow WATER light and the red PADS light should both be blinking. If anything else is happening, recheck all connections and then contact Damp-Chaser tech support.

## STEP 12: ADD WATER TO SYSTEM

Once you have confirmed everything is installed properly, it's time to get the Piano Life Saver System up and running.

We recommend you use this part of the installation to educate the piano owner on the proper care and operation of the System. A good way to do this is to have them do the initial filling under your instruction.

They may use tap, distilled, or filtered water. High mineral content water will reduce the life of the pads and Humidifier heater bar.

**Do not use water that has been softened using salt. Salt water will react with aluminum, shortening the life of the System.**

After the watering can has been filled to the red line with water, have them add one capful of Pad Treatment to the water. Explain how adding the Pad Treatment after the can has been filled will prevent bubbles from forming which make the can difficult to fully empty.

**NEVER use anything other than Damp-Chaser Pad Treatment in the System. Other humidifier treatments contain chemicals that will harm the piano. Use of another brand of treatment voids the System's warranty and may also void the piano manufacturer's warranty.**



Pull the watering tube out of its retaining clips and insert the nozzle of the watering can into the tube.



Tip the can so the nozzle points down. Take care not to tip too far when the can is full. When the watering can is empty, but before separating the watering tube from the can, set the can on the floor and let any water remaining in the tube drain back into the can.

Pull the nozzle out of the watering tube and replace the tube into the half clamps under the keyboard or wherever it was originally.

### STEP 13: CONFIRM PROPER FUNCTION

The yellow **WATER** light will stop blinking as soon as the tank has been filled. It will take several minutes for the red **PADS** light to stop blinking. If either light does not stop blinking within ten minutes, confirm proper installation of all components and contact Dampp-Chaser tech support.

**We recommend you carry Pads and Pad Treatment with you at all times so you can provide your clients with the supplies their Piano Life Saver System will require.**

### STEP 14: PIANO OWNER EDUCATION

You're all set. Take a few minutes to fully educate the piano owner on the function and maintenance of the System.

1. Add water and Pad Treatment when the yellow **WATER** light comes on.
2. The pads should be changed at least once per year, but may need to be changed more often depending on water quality. This is a good time to replace the clean sleeve on the Humidifier heater bar as well.
3. When the **PADS** light and the **WATER** light are blinking at the same time, the Humidifier tank has likely gone completely dry. Fill with water and Pad Treatment. The **PADS** light should go off in a few minutes. If it does not go off, have the owner contact you.
4. The Smart Bracket may need cleaning from time to time. Carefully scrape with a blunt tool or use a scrub pad. Do not submerge any of the components during cleaning.

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