

ZEITRAUM

ROOM CLIMATE AND SOLID WOOD

WOOD LIVES

Your solid wood furniture is made of a living material which responds directly to the surrounding climate. Wood absorbs and releases moisture from and to the surrounding air – we would say it breathes, a scientist would speak of its, hygroscopic qualities'. The higher the humidity, the more moisture is absorbed by the wood. When the humidity falls, the wood releases moisture back into the surrounding air. Just like a sponge which swells when it sucks up water and shrinks again when it dries out so your furniture also swells and shrinks to a certain extent as it reacts to changes in humidity.

YOUR SOLID WOOD FURNITURE REACTS TO SPACES AND SEASONS

Low humidity in your rooms leads to a reduction in the moisture content of the solid wood furniture. The wood continues to release moisture until a balance is reached between the moisture content of the furniture and that of the air. The volume of the wood shrinks, and the result is cracks and gaps in the furniture. These are characteristic of a natural material and will disappear as soon as a normal climate is re-established. Permanently dry air, or an abrupt increase in room temperature (for instance at the beginning of winter) can lead to irreparable damage through shrinkage. We therefore recommend the use of an automatic humidifier, particularly with under-floor heating systems. There are a number of points to which attention should be paid in order to prevent your wooden furniture from drying out too much.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE HUMIDITY

Keeping a comfortable and healthy climate of about 20° C and 50 % humidity in your home can generally speaking prevent these natural phenomena from having any negative effects. It is important to avoid permanent or abrupt changes in humidity. Your climate can be easily controlled using a simple device which is a combination of thermo – and hygrometer. If the air is too dry then measures must be taken to increase the humidity. We recommend the use of a hygrostatically controlled humidifier. Other things you can do to help include: potted plants, bowls of water on the heating, fountains or similar indoor water features, and regular airing of the rooms.

GOOD FOR THE WOOD, GOOD FOR YOU

The correct humidity doesn't just keep your wood looking good, it's also important for your welfare. As with the wood, your membranes dry out by low humidity and get tiny cracks which leave you more open to infection. In order to prevent this we may go to a sauna or steam bath where we experience how the increased humidity brings relief to our breathing. It is important for our health to ensure that the rooms in which we live are not overheated, and that the air is not too dry. It is not difficult to achieve an optimal climate in your home and the advantages are manifold: wooden furniture, paintings, antiques and musical instruments don't dry out, cracks and gaps in walls and plasterwork are minimised, and the air is more hygienic. Your home will be a more comfortable and healthier place to live in.