

So What Does That Do?

Equipment seen on a Water Loss & Mold Remediation Jobs...

Can bring about some questions. Does that read for mold? What time do I turn off the equipment? And, how do you know when its dry? If you could see yourself asking questions to better understand what's going on in your home during a time like this, then this blog is for you. This blog we will view 3 different types of equipment we use on almost every job. Two of which go hand and hand, the moisture meter and hygrometer. We will also show you and talk a little about the air scrubber. Stay tuned for future blogs, including other types of equipment used in the field. Enjoy!!!

The Moisture Meter & Hygrometer Intro...

When it comes to moisture on a water loss, we want to focus on both the liquid and gas phases. The instruments to use in our industry to detect such moisture are the Moisture Meter and Hygrometer. Moisture can be found nearly everywhere, including materials considered dry. Having control of the moisture is very important during a water loss to effectively dry the structure. Elevated moisture above a certain percentage can lead to secondary damage.

Why We Care So Much About The Moisture Levels...

The building materials, contents, and just about everything in your home needs to remain at a suitable range of moisture. The lack of moisture can lead to the same amount or even more damage in your property than a reoccurring elevated moisture issue. A direct result of "*not enough moisture*" can lead to calking in the home cracking or splitting. A more noticeable case is when the hardwood floors start to contract and warp. This can happen over the years during the winter months with the heat turned up too high, not to mention the bloody nose, itchy eyes, and dry skin.

The Moisture Meter

Moisture meters come in all shapes and sizes. A&R Environmental uses the same meters throughout the entire mitigation process. Our moisture meters are always stored in a controlled environment when not in use to help prevent damaging them in the hot summer days and cold winter nights. Each leading technician is equipped with a moisture meter allowing them to take readings at anytime when on site. During a water loss and the drying process, moisture readings are taking daily. Sometimes, depending on the loss a few hundred in a day. Our meters come equipped with a heavy-duty hammer probe (save that for another post), 5" insulated deep wall probes, heavy-duty pin moisture probe, and spare parts to keep the readings going.

The Hygrometer

If the moisture meter is in the right hand, a lot of times you can find the hygrometer in the left. This tool will measure relative humidity, temperature, grains per pound (GPP), dew point, enthalpy, and vapor pressure. This tool can also be used to measure the output of a dehumidifier during a water loss or drying situation to monitor working condition and/or efficiency. Just like the moisture meter, every lead technician has a hygrometer. This is located in the same hard provocative case as the moisture meter. Both are available together in one. This all in one meter was used before our current technology with great success.

Now It's Time for the Air Scrubber

Some will call it an air filtration device. They will not be wrong in doing so. The AFD is a piece of equipment all contractors should have and maintain. Anytime removal is being done in an occupied space, an air scrubber or AFD should be implemented along with other necessary engineering controls. Our air scrubbers are equipment with 2 and 3 stages of filtration, one of which being HEPA filtration. This will generate 1,000 cfm of clean HEPA-filtered air. During times of heavy mold removal, lay-flat ducting can be attached to the AFD and duct-ed to the outside to create a negative air-filtration device. This should be handled with care to not disturb other areas of the home or run the risk of destroying the containment.

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