



Fungus growth:

The growth of fungus in camera equipment and on negatives, slides, photos, CD and DVD disks is promoted by surface contamination. Airborne dust particles, fingerprints, oils etc all provide nutrients for the fungus.

High relative humidity (above 50%) together with high temperature (above 25°) provide ideal conditions for fungus to grow and for metal to corrode. In coastal areas the fine salty mist from the sea greatly accelerates the process.

Keeping cameras and lenses clean and free of contaminants is therefore important. Lenses should be protected with a filter and always capped front and back. If the camera body is stored without a lens a body cap should be fitted.

Storage conditions:

The ideal storage condition is a relative humidity of between 30% to 50% at a temperature of 20° to 24°C. Suitable storage containers of metal, polyethelene, and even polystyrene are recommended. Wood is less suitable since it tends to absorb moisture.

A container which can be sealed, either with screw lid and gasket or clipped lid with gasket, is ideal. With Silica Gel the humidity inside the container can easily be reduced and maintained at a level of 35% to 40%.

Relative Humidity can be determined with a Hygrometer. A simple wall type Hygrometer, usually found in combination with a thermometer, will give a good indication. However, to monitor the conditions inside a storage container a low cost Humidity Indicator Card provides a quick visual and accurate indication.

How much Silica Gel to use:

A single 25 gm sachet is sufficient to maintain conditions inside a 10lt container once the humidity has been reduced and an equilibrium established. When dehumidifying for long term storage double the amount of Silica Gel may be required for a short period in order to stabilize the humidity level.

I use one sachets in a 5lt box and monitor the colour of the Indicator Beads. If they turn pink within a couple of days I replace it with two fresh sachets. Usually the humidity level inside the container will have reached an equilibrium within one week. From then on one sachet is enough to maintain the humidity at the required level.

By placing a Humidity Indicator Card in the box you can easily check the humidity level without having to remove the lid and physically check the state of the silica beads.

Reactivating the Silica Gel:

The Silica Gel Crystals from Camera Check Point can be re-activated once it has reached saturation point. Full instruction is supplied with the product together with many more tips and information about storage and prevention of fungus.

Product range:

Silica Gel is available in small 25g sachets in single or multiple packs.

A slightly large bead mix is available in packs of 250g and in 1lt tins of about 900g.

Full instruction included.

Visit our Webshop for more details.



SISTEMA Storage Box

