

CAMERA STORAGE

Mould & Fungus thrive in dark, humid environments. Living where we do and being a camera service provider, I see lots of my clients treasured equipment affected due to our environment and inappropriate storage conditions. It is time I stepped up and provided some information to help my fellow photographers.



DO NOT STORE YOUR CAMERAS AND LENSES IN YOUR CAMERA BAG

The Camera Bag is a transport device, not a storage solution. Inside your bag it is dark, and it will absorb moisture from our humid environment. That makes it the perfect breeding ground for mould and fungus. The same applies to those lovely bags supplied with your quality lenses. Do not store your lenses in them. Use them solely to protect the lens during transport. By the way, those little bags of silica gel do virtually nothing. Once they are saturated, they stop working.

THE PREMIUM SOLUTION

The De-Humidifying Cabinet is the premium solution for safe storage of your treasured camera gear. They can be purchased from about \$200 - \$400 depending on size. There is no better way to store your gear.



STORING IN A CUPBOARD



In a cupboard can work but remember when you close the door it will be dark in there. And we all know about damp in our cupboards here on the coast. This cupboard has a light and a Cli-Mate rechargeable de-humidifier. Note the lens caps are removed to allow light in and the camera bodies have a lens fitted for the same reason.

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THE CLI-MATE RECHARGEABLE DE-HUMIDIFIER CLI-DHE

The **Cli-Mate De-Humidifier** contains 400 grams of silica gel. That is about 40 times the amount in one of those little bags. It has a moisture indicator and a heating element to dry the silica gel when it becomes saturated. When the crystals turn pink you plug it into mains power overnight or until the crystals turn blue and it is good to go again. You can use this in your cupboard, in your bag when your gear has to be in there for longer than normal and in the next solution I'm about to show you too. I bought mine from The Good Guys, but they can also be found on Ebay.



AN EFFECTIVE LOW-COST SOLUTION

An **effective low-cost solution** is a clear plastic storage container with a lid. The advantage over the cupboard is it minimises dust on the glass. You just need to place it where it will get indirect light. If you are going to put it in a cupboard, you'll need a light. One of those little plug-in night lights on an extension lead will do the job.



WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Your camera gear, lens caps off, a lens on each camera body to let light in and a Cli-Mate Dehumidifier. Now fit the lid to keep the dust out and don't forget to check the indicator on the de-humidifier regularly. And yes, those are my feet.



I'll be a very happy chappy when I never have to tell a client that their lenses have succumbed to fungus. The better the solution, the safer your gear will be, so I must tell you the De-Humidifying Cabinet is by far the safest. However, the others work too. The photo of the cupboard is mine and it has been in use for about 10 years. The light and the de-humidifier are more recent additions, but they've been there for several years. So far so good, no signs of fungus.

For more information on camera storage, or for that matter sensor cleaning or focus calibration please feel free to contact me.

Cheers,

Greg L.