Moisture Control during Leather Storage

Leather is a durable and flexible material created by animal skin to make various goods like shoes, hats, jackets, skirts, trousers, belts, bookbinding, wallpaper, and as a furniture covering. It is produced in a wide variety of types and styles, decorated by a wide range of techniques. Leather is highly hygroscopic and tends to absorb moisture from the surrounding air.

Effects of Uncontrolled Humidity

Leather mold and mildew growth is common if safeguards are not in place during leather storage, packaging and shipping

- Loss of sheen
- Bad smell (musty odour)
- Spots, stains, discolouration
- Micro-organism growth
- Gradual decomposition of leather goods
- Gradual decrease in leather strength

Causes

When leather is exposed to the surrounding air, the porous surface of leather makes it highly susceptible to mildew buildup in humid climates. Mould, mildew and fungi germinate when relative humidity is above 40%

Finished leather products regain moisture while in storage, prior to packaging. This results in the high rate of product spoilage due to mould/ fungus/ mildew growth fueled by moisture absorbed by the leather.

Once mold and bacteria have established on the product then cleaning will only remove the visual effect. Structural defects however aren't easily rectified.

Genera Recommendations

It is necessary to store, package and ship the leather in humidity controlled environment where conditions are maintained at less than 40% RH at ambient temperature.

Bry-Air Solution

Installing dehumidifiers in the leather storage and packaging areas and ensuring dehumidified conditions prior to shipping will ensure fewer rejections.