

How To Care For Your Instruments In The Fall

As we move farther into the fall, the weather is quickly becoming more unstable. Fall can bring both warm and cold breezes, as well as showers and possibly even snow, all in the same week. It's hard to know what the weather will be like from one day to the next in some areas.

These humidity and temperature changes can be exhausting for many of us to keep track of and adjust to. Yet, musicians have another challenge to face – the damage these weather conditions can cause to their musical instruments. Let's break down exactly how autumn and fall weather can affect your musical instruments and what you can do to protect them.

How Can Autumn Affect Your Musical Instruments?

Science teaches us that most objects expand in the heat and contract in the cold. Like most other objects, musical instruments may also expand and contract when subjected to temperature changes. At the same time, moisture can cause wood to swell, warp or crack, as well as make metal rust — and musical instruments are no exception.

Therefore, those transitions from cold to hot or from dry to wet (and vice versa) that typically occur during autumn can be significantly harmful to your musical instruments and may lead to some quite expensive repairs. Since musical instruments are not weatherproof, proper instrument care is crucial during this time of the year.

What Can You Do To Protect Them?

When it comes to instrument protection during fall, the main rule is to do your best to minimize your musical instrument's exposure to temperature changes, wind, humidity, and rain.

The first thing you can do to avoid such exposure is to keep your musical instrument inside its protective case when you're done playing or cleaning it. After all, this is its primary purpose: to safeguard your musical instrument from the adverse effects of moisture, dust, temperature fluctuations, and direct sunlight. Ensure that the case is tightly closed, properly latched, and occasionally inspect it for any gaps or holes. If you spot any signs of damage, don't hesitate to replace it.

As the level of humidity inside your home may rise during fall, investing in a hygrometer and a dehumidifier may be a good idea. The hygrometer will help you measure the humidity level in your home, and the dehumidifier will help you adjust it.

Of course, sometimes musical instruments don't always stay at home. As a musician, you might be regularly traveling around the world, performing in open-air festivals, or

maybe even playing as a member of a marching band. In this case, trying to limit the amount of time your instrument will be outside might not be a viable option, but there are some things you can do to help mitigate your risks.

If your musical instrument has been out in the cold for an extended period, remember to let it gradually warm up to room temperature before attempting to play it again. Use covers to protect it from rain whenever possible, and soak up any excess water or moisture with a towel when you can. An important point to follow year-round is to avoid leaving your musical instrument in the car, where temperatures can fluctuate dramatically and rapidly.

What Can Clarion Do For You?

Regardless of whether your musical instrument stays at home or travels with you, the best way to keep it safe and sound in the fall is by investing in musical instrument insurance. With [Clarion Associates](#) by your side, you're protected year-round and worldwide.

At Clarion, we've designed a unique, specialized musical instrument insurance policy that offers worldwide coverage for damage due to weather conditions, as well as a myriad of excellent [benefits](#) you won't find anywhere else! With over 50 years in the insurance industry and 25 years working with musicians, you can rest assured that we understand and respect our customers' unique needs and situations.

We offer various specialized services and customizable coverage for musicians, music stores, recording studios, instrument collectors, and more! We cover instruments ranging from strings to wood winds, and even pianos! Contact us for a [quote](#) today and see why thousands of musicians worldwide trust us with their protecting their prized musical instruments.