

Hot Climate Firearm Storage Checklist

Print this, stick it inside your safe door, and run through it before summer heat sets in.

THE TARGET RANGE	30% to 50% Relative Humidity	60 to 70 degrees F Interior Temperature
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This is the number that matters more than the thermometer on the wall. Everything below exists to keep your safe inside this range.

BEFORE SUMMER HITS: ONE-TIME SETUP

- Confirm your safe's location. Interior, climate-controlled room beats garage, shed, or exterior closet.
- If a garage or outbuilding is your only option, add a vapor barrier or runners under the safe. Keep it off bare concrete and out of direct sunlight.
- Install a hygrometer inside the safe. A ten dollar unit works. This is your only real source of truth.
- Size a dehumidifier rod or desiccant to your safe's cubic footage, not the cheapest unit on the shelf.
- Confirm your dehumidifier has power access (rod) or is fully charged (rechargeable desiccant) before closing the door.

MONTHLY, DURING PEAK SUMMER HEAT

- Read the hygrometer. Confirm it is inside 30 to 50 percent relative humidity.
- Check the dehumidifier rod is warm to the touch, or the desiccant indicator has not turned.
- Visually inspect firearms for surface moisture, spotting, or early rust.
- Wipe down and re-oil exposed metal surfaces if anything looks off.

QUARTERLY, THE REST OF THE YEAR

- Repeat the monthly check, even if nothing feels urgent.
- Inspect wood stocks and grips for cracking, warping, or loose fittings.
- Recharge or replace desiccant if that is your primary method.
- Confirm the hygrometer battery still has life.

QUICK REFERENCE

AMMUNITION	WOOD STOCKS
Sealed factory ammo tolerates heat well. Detonation from heat alone needs roughly 400 degrees F, far beyond any safe or car. The real risk is moisture in unsealed reloads or aging primers over years.	Wood expands and contracts with humidity swings. Repeated cycles cause cracking or loose fittings. A light coat of oil or wax a couple times a year protects it.

WHICH TOOL FITS YOUR CLIMATE

Your safe lives...	Use this standard
Indoors, regular A/C	Desiccant checked twice a year is genuinely adequate. No logging needed.
Garage, shed, or summer temps regularly above 90 F	Continuous dehumidifier rod, hygrometer, and monthly logged checks. Treat this as your floor.
Not sure which applies	Install a hygrometer first. Monitor 30 days. Then pick a lane.

A note on legal storage: climate control protects the condition of your firearms. It does not replace state safe storage law, which governs locking your firearms and restricting access to unauthorized users. Meeting one does not satisfy the other. Check your state's requirements separately.

This checklist is educational and general in nature. It is not legal advice. For state specific storage law questions, consult a licensed attorney in your state.