

THE PROPER LOCATION

Where you decide to place your piano will determine how long it will serve you. Begin by asking yourself: "Would I feel comfortable standing for long periods of time in the space that I have chosen for this piano?" If the answer is "No", select a different location. Furthermore, because the piano is rather heavy, remember to give careful consideration to the eventual location before attempting to move the instrument.

Ensure flooring is level

Most floors are quite capable of supporting the full weight of a piano. However, a floor that is uneven or vibrates excessively will upset the balance of the piano's delicate inner workings, affecting its musical performance and tuning stability. In extreme cases, the piano could even topple or roll, resulting in possible injury. For personal safety and optimum performance, always place your piano on firm, level flooring.

Avoid direct sunlight

Your piano is encased in wood, a beautiful yet sensitive material that must be protected from direct sunlight and rapid changes in temperature or humidity. Placing the piano beside a window is strongly discouraged. In such a location, the instrument is susceptible to the harmful effects of direct sunlight, wind, rain, and dust. If it is essential that the piano be placed beside a window, protect the instrument by installing thick curtains that block direct sunlight and prevent other elements from reaching the piano.

Consider room acoustics

The sound from your piano originates from the vibration of the soundboard, induced when the hammers strike the strings. Some of this sound reaches the ear directly, yet a considerable amount of the tone will reflect off the floor, walls, ceiling and other objects in the room before eventually reaching the ear.

The ideal balance of direct and reflected sound - that which yields the full, rich tone one typically associates with a fine piano - is produced in a room with slight reverberation for warmth of tone, yet not so much as to create a lasting echo.

Avoid spaces where the piano sound lingers everywhere for a sustained period, bounces repeatedly off walls, or tends to concentrate in one particular area. The ideal room should contain irregular (non-parallel) surfaces and sound-absorbing materials (such as rugs or cloth-covered furniture) in order to provide the correct balance of tone and reverberation.



THE PROPER HUMIDITY

Be cautious of extreme humidity

Your Kawai piano has been crafted from natural materials that 'breathe', including fine woods, wool felt, and genuine leather. While the material of each component has been carefully chosen for its durability and resistance to the effects of humidity, exposure to extremely high or low humidity environments over extended periods of time may lead to serious problems.

High humidity may cause:

- Muffled or 'muddy' sound
- Sluggish action or keyboard response
- High and uneven pitch
- Warping or ridging of the soundboard
- Rusting of the strings

Low humidity may cause:

- Weak, thin or tinny tone
- Noisy action operation
- Low and uneven pitch
- Possible cracking of the soundboard

Such problems can be prevented with regular care and attention, and by controlling the humidity of the piano's environment. A relative humidity level (RH) of approximately 45% is ideal, while levels between 35% - 70% are acceptable. Humidity levels below 25% and above 80%, however, can be especially harmful to the fine woods used in the construction of your piano.

Avoid fluctuations in humidity

Frequent changes in temperature and humidity associated with intermittent use of heating and air conditioning equipment may cause condensation, with water droplets accumulating on the strings and other metal components, potentially leading to rust. Moisture may also accumulate on the felts, which then swell, interfering with the piano action. Such problems with condensation are especially prevalent in colder climates and in concrete enclosures, such as basements. Furthermore, frequent changes in humidity may also lead to unstable tuning and will eventually cause permanent damage to the piano.

Shield your piano from moisture

Wet and rainy days can be particularly hazardous, especially when combined with strong winds. Keep windows and doors closed to prevent moisture from damaging your piano. When the piano is not in use, close both the lid and top board to further protect the piano from moisture.

