

IS YOUR STORAGE UNIT READY FOR WINTER?

With winter just around the corner many residents are concerned about possible damage to possessions they have in cold storage units. Most items will not be damaged by cold temperatures, but there are some items that should be kept in a warm environment

Fluctuating temperatures during North Dakota's fall and winter months can cause condensation inside the electronics device. This moisture can cause the device to short out when powered up. Electronic devices like LCD televisions, laptops or desktop computers, digital cameras, MP3 music players, game systems and hard drive-based video recorders should all be kept warm. If any of these items experience the extreme temperatures we see in North Dakota, allow them time to warm to room temperature before operating them

If you have a printer in a cold storage unit the printer itself will be fine. However, the ink cartridges should be removed and stored in a warm place. Cold temperatures can cause the nozzles on the ink cartridges to leak and damage the printer.

Guitars may also be damaged by freezing temperatures. If a guitar does freeze, let it warm to room temperature while still in its case. This lets it come up to room temperature more slowly, decreasing the possibility of wood and finish cracks.

If latex paint is frozen the paint may not be noticeably affected but the long-term durability will suffer, depending on how hard the paint freezes.

Oil paint can take almost any temperature North Dakota can send but some brands can separate and may be hard to remix, therefore it is best to store all paint in a warm environment.

The environment can damage furniture because of fluctuating humidity. Wood absorbs and desorbs water as relative humidity rises and falls causing it to swell and shrink. Wood will be affected in this way as long as it exists, whether it is new or antique.

Large appliances must be prepared for cold storage. Refrigerators and freezers need to be clean and dried inside and out to avoid water damage and mildew growth.

Leave doors slightly ajar once in storage. Drain washing machines, and tie down hoses and cords before storing them.

If storing photographs in a cold storage unit place them between pieces of clean cardboard and consider taping them together to avoid curling.

When storing a vacuum cleaner, clean out the bag or canister first to keep bacteria, mold and vermin from growing there.

Climate control storage units or rented rooms may be more expensive than cold storage units but if you need to store electronics or items of sentimental value, the additional cost may be insignificant, especially if it gives you peace of mind.

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