

Conservator Hack

By [Jane Dalley](#), Cultural Stewardship Program (CSP) Conservator

Many of us in the museum and heritage community are restricted in our activities, and some of us may find ourselves watching way too many pet videos on YouTube. Instead of kittens playing the piano, try watching these time-lapse videos from the Canadian Conservation Institute instead.

- [“Two Iron Keys, Incorrect Relative Humidity & Pollutants”](#): watch how high relative humidity (RH) and pollutants cause corrosion to form on two iron keys:
- [“Parchment and Iron Key, Incorrect Relative Humidity”](#): watch how high RH causes deformation and mould growth on parchment and also causes corrosion on iron:
- [“Oil Painting, Incorrect Relative Humidity”](#): watch how very low RH causes cracks to form and expand in an oil painting on canvas:

High relative humidity is common in winter in unheated or partially-heated buildings. If you suspect that the relative humidity is too high in your museum, pioneer cabin or storage room, the AMM can provide dataloggers or hygrothermographs that provide a snapshot of the environment over a period of weeks or even months. There is a small fee for use of the equipment but it includes the download and written analysis of the data. An Elsec device that takes spot readings of temperature, relative humidity, visible light and UV is also available for loan.

As always, I am available to answer questions and offer advice on this or any other collections care topic through the Cultural Stewardship Program

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