Basement Humidity Sizing & Tracker Chart

Measure first, size by dampness, keep it at target — the whole method on one page.
From vitaldwelling.com — "How to Fix a Damp Basement (and Stop Mold Before It Starts)".

1 — SIZE BY DAMPNESS (current DOE pint ratings)

BASEMENT SIZE	MODERATELY DAMP (50–60%)	VERY DAMP (60–70%)	WET (70%+, MUSTY)
500 sq ft	22-pint	22-pint	35-pint
1,000 sq ft	22-pint	35-pint	35–50-pint
1,500 sq ft	35-pint	35–50-pint	50-pint
2,000 sq ft	35-pint	50-pint	50-pint
2,500 sq ft	50-pint	50-pint	Whole-basement class
3,000+ sq ft	50-pint	Whole-basement class	Whole-basement class

Size up one step if the basement has a laundry, a bathroom/shower, or people living in it daily. Ratings changed in 2019: a pre-2019 "70-pint" is today's "50-pint" — compare only ratings from the same standard.

2 — THE TARGET DIAL (EPA)



0% **30%** **50%** **60%** **100%**

Ideal: 30–50% · Hard ceiling: 60% (mold grows on air alone above it) · Set the unit to 45–50% and let the humidistat work. Below 30% wastes energy and dries out wood and sinuses — lower is not better.

3 — SEVEN-DAY HYGROMETER LOG (before you buy anything)

DAY	MORNING — UNIT CORNER	MORNING — FAR CORNER	EVENING — UNIT CORNER	EVENING — FAR CORNER
Day 1				
Day 2				
Day 3				
Day 4				
Day 5				
Day 6				
Day 7				

Hygrometer goes in the WORST corner, away from the machine — the unit's own dial reads the driest air in the room.

4 — STOP THE SOURCE FIRST (mostly free, mostly outside)

- ☐ Gutters cleaned and not overflowing against the foundation in rain
- ☐ Downspouts extended at least 6 feet away from the house
- ☐ Soil slopes away from the foundation (about 1 inch per foot for the first 6–10 feet)
- ☐ Sump pit covered with a sealed lid — an open pit is a permanent evaporation source
- ☐ Dryer and bathroom vents exhaust OUTSIDE, never into the basement or attic