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presents
THE RESTORER

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Tools of the Trade

When it comes to detecting and monitoring moisture levels in walls, floors, and other building materials restoration professionals use a device called a moisture meter. Moisture meters are a go-to tool for projects that are affected by moisture. There are two types of moisture meters that are primarily used, pin-type moisture meters and pin-less moisture meters. How a particular moisture meter works depends on what kind of meter it is, and each type of meter has its own uses, benefits, and limitations.

Pin-type moisture meters are highly precise instruments and they have been around since the 1940's. These devices use the principal of electrical resistance to detect moisture in a given material. The user of the meter, inserts two pins into the material to be measured until they reach a desired depth. Once the pins are in, the user turns on the meter, which causes one of the pins to emit an electric current. The other pin receives the current, and the meter measures how much resistance there is to the current, then displays a reading that can be used to determine how much moisture is in the material being tested. Pin meters are most commonly used on permeable building materials such as drywall, insulation, and wood.

Pin-type moisture meters excel at providing an exact measurement of the moisture in a material. These meters are ideal for establishing whether or not building materials are sufficiently dry. They are also great for finding the precise location and depth of pockets of moisture. By testing multiple depths, it is possible to find out how deep a moisture pocket is in a given building material. As good as pin-type meters are for providing exact measurements, they do have a few limitations. Readings are not universal for every type of building material. When taking measurements of the moisture content of an object, it is important to adjust the results for the type of building material being measured. Some meter types have built-in species correction options. Also, pin meters can only measure the moisture content of the materials between the pins. If you do not know exactly where the moisture is, it might take a while to find affected areas.

Pin-less moisture meters take their readings without having to penetrate the surface of the building material being measured. When a pin-less moisture meter is pressed onto a flat surface, the meter sends out electromagnetic waves into the building material being measured. The meter then interprets the fluctuations in the wave to establish the general moisture content of the material being measured. This type of meter is excellent for quickly identifying the general location of moisture in affected building materials. They are easy to use and can give a moisture reading on nearly any flat surface, such as ceilings, floors, and walls.

Pin-less moisture meters have several advantages. They are easy use and do not take much time to master. They also have the ability to scan large area very quickly, however it is not recommended to drag the meter across the surface. Since you do not have to insert pins into a surface, they will not damage the surface of the material being measured. There are a few things to keep in mind when using pin-less moisture meters. Surface moisture can skew the reading results and further testing may be required. Also, if a building material is too thick, the meter might not detect moisture because the electromagnetic waves might not penetrate deep enough. They also need a flat, smooth surface to work properly. Rough or porous surfaces can distort the readings and may even damage the meter.

In the event that you experience water damage at your property, make sure and have a certified restoration professional come out and assess the damage. Moisture meters along with years of experience will help find moisture not visible to the untrained eye. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

Reference: Dlemhorst Instrument Company: Moisture Meters 101

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 SAMA Luncheon	2 IFMA Luncheon	3	4	5
6	7	8 SACA Luncheon	9 AAFAME Luncheon	10	11 Austin CE Class	12
13	14	15	16 SABOMA Luncheon	17 SAABE Luncheon CAMO Luncheon	18	19
20	21	22	23 TAC: Legislative Conference--Austin	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

For a Complete List of our Continuing Education Classes visit our websites: www.gerloffinc.com or www.gcirem.com

Events

August 1:	**SAMA Lunchoen**
August 2:	**IFMA Luncheon**
August 8:	**SACA Luncheon**
August 9:	**AAFAME Luncheon**
August 11:	**Austin CE Class**
August 16:	**SABOMA Luncheon**
August 17:	**SAABE Luncheon**
August 17:	**CAMO Meeting**
August 23-25:	**TAC Legislative Conference**

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