

**Original Comment:**

23/11/02

More De-humidifier

I have new (July'02) Bavaria 32 "Isabelle" based in Cobbs Quay bought with my Partner Nina. She is still in the water because we are enjoying the quietness of winter on the water - weather permitting - and looking forward to a Christmas time sail !

So a further question for comment on dehumidifiers:-

I have read in one of the Sailing Mags (PBO or YM recently) and they evaluated quite a range so I have decided one which will do the reverse gas heating or defrost to continue to work at a lower temperatures.

However, my questions are :-

Where have people placed the unit on their boats ?

How have they been secured ?

They are quite awkward shapes to place without them flying around during a gale or rolling around even when moored on the pontoon during a gale. So where are they placed when in use ? Then where are they stowed and secured at sea ?

Has anyone actually plumbed the dehumidifier in ?

I close all my cocks when I leave my boat but I suppose you could use one of the sink outlets. But then you need the dehumidifier unit up on the galley work surface or the heads/ sink area.

Does any one do this ?

The internal tanks are very small so I can see them filling in a few days. Any other ideas on placement and plumbing much appreciated.

Finally, I now understand that a small bar or greenhouse heater can help save batteries or water tanks etc if we get a lengthy frost period - Thanks for that and I agree with one of the other comments that it is probably not a good idea to have the heat going on and off. Because when it does go off will result in more condensation.

Thanks for your comments in advance

*Jeremy & Nina, Isabelle B32*

**Replies:**

Even though they are much lighter than earlier models, they still weigh 12 kg, so they don't readily fall over. I've left mine standing on the fridge lid on a table mat to spread the load a bit. Most will enable a drain hose to be fitted to drain straight into the sink basin, with its sea-cock left open.

If you have to pay separately for electricity, I wouldn't bother to heat as well - its the damp that causes most damage, and down at water level, I doubt anything will freeze, especially as the dehumidifier generates about 300W of heat itself.

*Jeremy Flynn Dawn Chorus*

Same comments as Jeremy really, I have used a dehumidifier on the galley work top, piped into the sink for a number of years now.

I have a small heater with a thermostat set to come on a few degrees above freezing.

As we like to use the boat all year round, we often even leave our duvets on the beds! No mould as yet!

Our dehumidifier fits easily in the forward hanging locker, but I normally just take it ashore and leave it in the car if we are going out for more than a day, or expect bad weather. In the spring, I take it home.

I must say that we've always had fairly new and very dry boats.

*Pippa Newland Bavaria 44 'Fizz'*

Hi Graham

As a follow up of my question I would like to thank Jeremy and Pippa for their comments.

So, I bought a fortnight ago a Widetech 101P HGD "drybuoy" from SCES which has hot gas defrost and can work down to zero degrees C for £175 incl P&P. Their URL is

<http://www.sces.co.uk/index2.html> and this was the one recommended as best buy in Sailing Today recently.

I have placed the unit on the work surface above the cool box and pipe in to the sink with the hydrostat set to "normal".

Well the results have been absolutely conclusive. The difference is immediately apparent.

The unit chucks out a fair amount of heat too so the air leaving the unit is warm and very dry

to touch.

We were down this weekend and everything was summer dry. None of that chilly semi dampness feeling.

My partner and I are very happy and I would highly recommend this model or similar for people who have access to shore power.

Many thanks again

*Jeremy & Nina, (B32 Isabelle)*

PS I guess my next shock will be my electricity bill from MDL . . . . But I will report on this when I get it . . . .

I 100% agree. Our unit, from BandQ, stands on a board across the top of the fridge so that the fridge lid can be left open. The board is actually the dinghy seat. Same draining system. We also found that the use of a heater made no difference. We are trying a timer this year so that the unit only runs overnight. I couldn't really think through when was the correct time to have it running? Any thoughts? I, too, wait the bill from MDL for power but assume the no heater and the timer will minimise the bill.

*Geoff Cutts (B34 Ad Infinitum)*

We have found the B&Q Dehumidifier at £99 works quite satisfactory without the added facility of a heater, believing that a heater would create more condensation when the air cools. We haven't had any trouble with freezing, although we do visit the boat regularly throughout the winter and leave the dehumidifier running constantly. When the 5 litre tank is full, it switches itself off and this we decant into bottles when visiting the boat, for use in the fresh water cooling system and our car radiators being a cheap and plentiful supply of form of distilled water which prevents scaling and furring in the systems.

For those who prefer to let the water drain away without having the dehumidifier precariously placed on a work surface, I have heard that some people connect the drain pipe and lead it into the bilges. I guess it would take an awful lot of water to fill the bilges, but there again it would depend how long you leave the boat unattended.

*Carole (B43 MICA)*

I too use the £99 B&Q model. I put the polystyrene packing upside down on top of the sink and the dehumidifier on top of that (it has wheels..) It stows under the seat in the main cabin. It seems stable to me and has survived three years in the outside berth at Campers and you dont get anywhere more rolly than that!

I wouldnt recommend emptying into the bilges - recently I left the drain hose out of the sink and there was subsequently a lot of sponging to get the water out of the various bilge compartments.

I use a heater set to come on at about 5C but then electricity is free at C&N!

*Steve Parsons (B34 Solaise)*

I am now living on board my B32 and having perused the answers in previous hints & tips I hightailed down to B&Q and bought a £79 job. If I'm away for more than one day it lives on the fridge and drains into the sink but when I am on board I can keep a check and empty the "bucket". Well worth the money compared with more expensive models.

*Barry Mills (B32 Bright Spirit)*