

Drum Care

Drums are sensitive to humidity, use reasonable care when storing your drum. Rawhide by its nature shrinks or expands depending on conditions. In cold, moist and humid weather rawhide expands. In hot and dry weather or when exposed to a heat source rawhide shrinks.

During shipping because of the various humidity changes it is common for a drum to become out of tune.

If your drum becomes too loose

The quickest and easiest way to tune a drum is with a common hair dryer. Start in the centre of the drum and work your way towards the edges. This should take only take a few minutes.

Or you can place the drum in front of the heat lamp, once again should only take a few minutes. Periodically play your drum to test the tone.

Each of the above methods work well, just make sure you do not over do it. By that I mean, leave the drum in front or too close of the heat source for too long. If you do, over time the rawhide will become over stretched and eventually loose its natural elastic quality.

If your drum becomes too tight

On a hot dry day the drum may sound very high pitched. The best way to get the rawhide to loosen is by spraying or sprinkling small amounts of water on the rawhide. Start from the edges of the drum and work your way to the middle. Let it rest for a few minutes then test the tone of the drum. Keep repeating until you have the desired tone. Avoid wetting the timber frame of the drum and just like the heating method don't over do it. In fact use this method if you do over heat your drum to loosen the rawhide.

Regardless of the method you use, test the tune of the drum as you go through the process by playing the drum until you are happy with the tone. Providing it's done correctly you can repeatedly use these methods without affecting the life span of the drum.