



Piano Solutions

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Caring for Your Piano

Routine service is part of piano ownership, just like it is with a car or a house. With thousands of highly sophisticated parts, pianos need periodic adjustments to maintain their performance potential over a period of time.

Maintaining the Sound

There are three basic components to maintaining the sound and touch of your piano:

Tuning: Keeps your piano at the right frequency and proper pitch. Unfortunately, no matter how expertly a piano is tuned, atmospheric conditions, particularly humidity, and consistent playing conspire to knock it out of tune. Most piano manufacturers recommend two to four tunings a year.

Voicing: Ensures the sound quality of the instrument remains even. Voicing is, to some extent, a matter of preference. Some pianists prefer *bright* voicing while others prefer a *mellower* sound. Regardless of your piano's original voicing, your piano's tone will change with time due to use and age. Your piano needs voiced when your ear tells you it has changed. In voicing a piano, the resiliency of the hammer felts is adjusted with special tools and then all notes are balanced so that the tone is uniform across the keyboard.

Regulation: Keeps the touch and responsiveness quick and even. Over time, the piano action needs to be re-regulated to original factory specification. A piano with normal home use probably needs regulated every two to three years. If your piano has a player device installed, it will probably require regulation annually to keep it in top playing condition.

Tuning, voicing and regulating all require the special skills of a qualified piano technician. Call us at 317-582-1946 to schedule your piano service with one of our top technicians.

Keys & Surface

Use a clean, damp cloth to wipe the keys. Be very careful that dampness does not seep between the keys or down onto the key bed. Dampness in the key bed can cause swelling and hamper the proper movement of the keys.

Wipe off exterior dust gently with a feather-type duster. Then clean the finish with a soft cloth (slightly dampened, if necessary, followed by a soft dry cloth to remove any remaining moisture). Excessive rubbing can dull the finish over time, as tiny particles of grit are dragged over the surface causing micro-scratches.

And, finally, never place objects other than books or sheet music directly on top of the piano.

If your piano is scratched or the finish damaged, call us at 317-582-1946. Piano restoration is a cornerstone of our business and we have the restoration expertise to return your piano's finish to like-new condition.

Care of the Interior

Every two to three years, a qualified piano technician who can clean the soundboard, strings and action should clean the interior of your piano. This reduces the risk of exposing the piano to undue wear caused by abrasive dust and dirt particles.

If a foreign object falls into your piano, a piano technician should remove it at once. Foreign objects can seriously affect the action and tone of the piano.

Interior cleaning is often performed in conjunction with a piano tuning. Call us at 317-582-1946 to make ar-

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rangements for the services of one of our qualified piano technicians.

Proper Location

Where you decide to place the piano in your home can affect optimum performance. The following recommendations will help you minimize the environmental impact and keep your piano in top condition:

- ✦ Avoid the direct path of an air conditioning or heating vent.
- ✦ Avoid spaces near an evaporative cooler or room humidifier.
- ✦ Keep it away from a non-insulated outside wall.
- ✦ Avoid placing it by a window so it doesn't receive direct sunlight.

Consider room acoustics: non-parallel surfaces and sound-absorbing materials (such as rugs and cloth-covered furniture) help balance tone and reverberation.

Storing Your Piano

Unlike other household items, acoustic pianos and other unique musical instruments require temperature and humidity-controlled environments when being stored.

Whether your piano storage needs are brief or lengthy, Piano Solutions can store your piano in a temperature- and humidity-controlled secure storage facility. Call us at 317-582-1946 for more information.

Moving Your Piano

The cardinal rule of piano moving is to always have professional piano movers do the job. Pianos are heavy and require special tools, dollies and training to be moved without damage to the piano or injury to the movers. Your piano simply cannot be regarded as another large piece of furniture.

We've moved pianos out of small rooms, down stairs (and up) and in unique locations. Our movers are trained at handing your piano with care. Call us at 317-582-1946 to make arrangements to have your piano moved by experienced staff trained in transporting, packaging and assembling pianos, organs and player pianos.