

CARING FOR YOUR PIANO

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TO THE OWNER;

Treat your chosen piano with care and it will serve you well for many years. We wish you a long life of enjoyment from your piano.
From the team at Bernies Music Land.



1. POSITION

Finding the right place to put your piano can make a significant difference to its wear and tear. The best place for your piano away from heating, cooling, moisture and direct sunlight, and where the temperature is most moderate. "On an inside wall" is recommended as this may be the most moderate location for the piano. Excessive humidity or dryness can cause the timber in your piano to crack and split. Humidity, like from steam cooking, causes rusting of strings, swelling of wooden moving parts (which may cause the notes to stick) and increasing hardening of the felts (which will affect the tone of the piano). Excessive drying happens when a piano is close to heating appliances such as ovens, radiators or central heating pipes, or from exposure to direct sunlight. Metal pins can then become loose in the action, sound boards may split and wrest pins may become loose in the wrest-plank with the result of the piano not being able to stay in tune. Sunlight may fade or crack the cabinetry and cause heating inside the piano. Adding a blind or shade where possible. Evaporated Cooling adds a great deal of moisture to the air so please discuss suitable care of your piano with the tuner.

2. MOVING

If your instrument is properly moved by professional carriers, it should suffer no harm and may just need a tuning when it has settled in its new location. When moving from room to room on a reasonably smooth floor, you need a piano trolley with well-tyred castors. It is risky to do this yourself, and for your safety we recommend you always use professional piano movers.

3. MAINTENANCE

Your piano is a fine piece of craftsmanship.

- Nominate a person to make sure the piano is always clean and dust free.
- Prevent unauthorised use.
- Keep the top clear of trinkets and especially liquids!
- Keep the key lid open to encourage air movement.
- Never place the piano cover on immediately after use - allow the piano to air and any dampness to clear.
- Talk to the team at Bernies for all your accessory needs.



4. TUNING (SEE REVERSE PAGE)

Your piano tuner is invaluable. They have many years of training and experience and are reliable sources of information for all areas of piano care. Please ensure a recommended tuner is contacted for all enquiries. In its first year, your piano will be tuned twice; once at the showroom before delivery, and once in your home. To look after your piano and to ensure your warranty is effective it is recommended that it be tuned at least once yearly in your home by our recommended tuner. Your tuner will be happy to advise you on servicing and multiple tunings for pianos used for teaching, stringent practice or highly frequent use.

5. PERIODIC INSPECTION

It is important to be attentive to your piano. If you have any concerns, please phone your recommended piano tuner. Pianos require major service every 3 to 5 years in homes, and every 12 months in school, studio or institutes.

Minor Repairs & Adjustments: Items such as adjustments to fixing sticky or sluggish keys, adjusting pedal mechanism and replacement of broken strings will be attended to by the tuner on their visit if advised. Major Repairs: A written quote and report by the tuner is advisable.

6. INSECTS

Certain insects have an appetite for the lovely fibrous materials in the piano; felt and wood. These insects, most often moths and wood boring insects, generally only make themselves at home in older pianos, although all pianos may be vulnerable. Please contact your recommended piano tuner immediately if you are concerned.

7. LONG TERM STORAGE

If it is necessary to store your piano for some time or leave it in a house that is closed up, we recommend precautions including;

- * Use camphor or moth repellent inside the piano as instructed by your technician.
- * Cover the strings of a grand piano with newspaper, and cover the instrument entirely with a cloth cover.
- * Damp climates require special care. Please consult professional advice.
- * Consider long term storage in a dedicated piano storage facility to best care for your piano.



Bernies Music Land

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PROPER SERVICE CARE FOR YOUR PIANO

A COMPLEX INSTRUMENT

With over 8,800 moving parts, your piano is a complex and intricate machine. It is not just tuning that will ensure the continued playing level of your instrument.

Piano manufacturers recommend that major service is conducted every 3 to 5 years in a domestic environment and every 1 to 2 years in a professional, performance or teaching environment. A talented tuner is a wonderful asset for the playing life of your piano.

PROTECT YOUR WARRANTY

Your piano warranty will have detailed information about the service upkeep that is necessary to protect your warranty.

1. TUNING

Seasonal temperature and humidity changes, as well as playing use, affect the tuning and mechanical wear of your piano. Pianos are most often tuned to A-440 pitch or "Standard Pitch". This means 440 cycles of sound on the A note. Be careful of saying "Concert Pitch" as this can vary in each concert! Pianos which have not been tuned in some years will require Pitch Raise service and may require more than one tuning to achieve A-440 pitch.

To look after your piano, it is recommended that it be tuned twice yearly or at least once yearly, in your home by a qualified tuner. Advising your tuner thoroughly of any concerns means attending to items as they occur, thus ensuring your piano plays beautifully.

If the piano is being used for professional or education use, your tuner will be happy to advise you on regular tunings and service required for highly frequent use.

2. REGULATION

The inner playing mechanism, or "action" of a piano, is an amazingly complex and sensitive machine. Like any other machine, it needs to be kept in adjustment to work well. Each key on your piano has over 25 points of adjustment that work together to produce the sound you hear when you play just one note. In order to compensate for wear, compacting of cloth and felt, and changes in wooden parts due to humidity, periodic adjustments must be made.

Keeping the correct relationship between every part will prevent unnecessary wear, and will make the action "feel right" - that is, each key will function smoothly and evenly throughout the whole keyboard.

Bernies Music Land recommends that regulation is conducted as part of your piano's service every three to five years in a home environment, or up to once yearly for education or professional pianos.



3. VOICING

Each piano has its own distinct sound or "voice". This is the character of the sound. However over time, whilst the piano is played, the hammer felt strikes the strings thus compacting and wearing down the felt. This hardening can cause the tone to become too harsh or bright, and it's difficult to produce a wide or even range of expression, no matter how much you try to play using dynamics. In other situations, the piano may seem too dull or lifeless.

Voicing may also be affected by temperature and humidity changes in the room.

Voicing is a personal choice. A piano must first be finely tuned and regulated before it can be voiced. Please discuss with your tuner, taking into consideration the age and potential of your instrument.

4. ADJUSTMENTS

Items such as adjustments to fixing sticky or sluggish keys, adjusting pedal mechanism and replacement of broken strings, are part of your maintenance and can be attended to by your tuner. Please give your tuner all the information possible when booking. A second visit may be required to complete the service. For major repairs, we recommend you book a tuner for a report and quotation.

FIND A TUNER

Bernies Music Land recommends you find a registered piano technician through the Australian Piano Tuners and Technicians Association:

www.aptta.org.au

Or please phone us on 9872 5122 to locate a qualified technician in your area.



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