

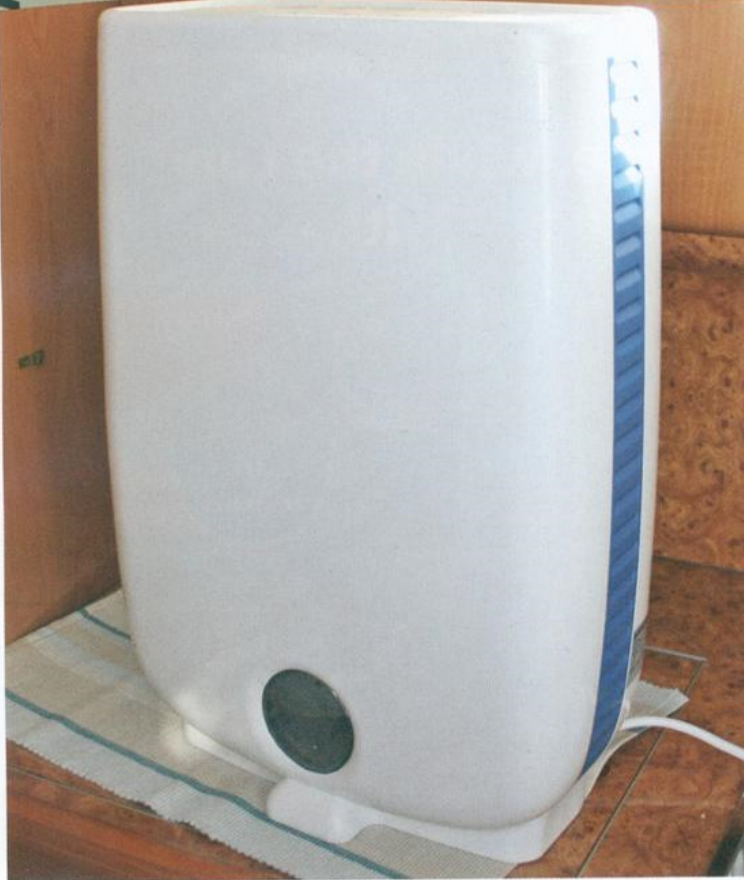
Trialed & tested

MBM's tough taskmasters put some clever new boating kit through its paces. The result? You can buy with confidence



Neale Byart

MOTOR BOATS MONTHLY TESTED



Clearing the air

Now is the winter of our dehumidifiers

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to protecting our pride and joy through the coldest months. While some go down the ventilation route, I am very much in the dehumidifier camp when it comes to keeping a boat's damp-free.

For the last year I have been testing one of the latest desiccant types, the **DD8L** from Maeco. As a benchmark, I have been running it alongside the popular **DD122FW** model, a product that won our Best Buy accolade last year.

A continuous drain function is fitted to both models which means

long periods without intervention and there's an auto-start function fitted in the event of a power cut, or if running them on a time switch.

With the cost of electricity, it pays to think about how long you need to run one of these units. I prefer to leave them on high and run them through a timer to operate for 6 hours in every 24. Using them like this I have

But why pay upwards of £150 for a desiccant model when £100 will get you a compressor type from any DIY superstore? Well, I'm going to give you three good reasons, followed by a knock-out blow.

Firstly, desiccant dehumidifiers are small and easier to stow on board. Secondly, with no compressor they are also lighter, both these units weigh around 6kg, making them easier to use. Lastly, compressor dehumidifiers don't work very well at temperatures near freezing, just when you need them most.

The killer blow? Both of these models have a setting which produces warm air, so not only will they keep the boat free of condensation when you're on board, but they'll also take the chill out of the coldest days.

For the energy-conscious, the DD122FW is better at adjusting its power consumption depending upon the environment. I found that it used between 1kwh and 4kwh over 6 hours depending upon the setting and humidity, and extracted anything from 0.35 litres up to 1.9-litres during the same period.

The DD8L came with a similar number of settings, but overall the resultant power consumption was either 2kwh or 4kwh for our 6-hour period, and its extraction rate for the same period ranged from 0.7 litres up to 1.8 litres.

The two units are near-identical, extracting the same amount of moisture for a given amount of electricity, although the DD8L typically extracted



DD8L (left) and the DD122FW (right)

more for a higher energy usage.

Either would make a perfect on board dehumidifier. The DD8L would be preferable on a boat that suffers from damp due to its higher performance. For me though, the better choice of settings, slightly smaller size and lower weight still makes the DD122FW the winner, even taking into account its slightly higher price.

TEST DATA

DD122FW

Consumption per 6 hrs **2.35kwh**
Extraction per 6 hrs **0.98 litres**
0.41 litres per kwh

DD8L

Consumption per 6 hrs **3.28 kwh**
Extraction per 6 hrs **1.3 litres**
0.40 litres per kwh

DD8L
✓✓✓✓✓
Price: £159.99

DD122FW
✓✓✓✓✓
Price: £169.99

Enquiries: Maeco (UK) Ltd
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www.meaco.com



For longer periods, I used the hose drain at the back of the unit

