

DOWN handling & storage

One of the important factors is that the down must be stored indoors, in a closed off room on pallets. The pallets are important to ensure that if any water gets into the room, it will not reach the down. Once down becomes wet, if not dried promptly and properly, it will rot.

It is also important to have a specific area / room for the down to make sure that it would not be contaminated with foreign materials. If this is not possible, at least keep down bags / bales on top of pallets.

Another key aspect is humidity level. If possible, the down should be stored in a room that has humidity less than 60%, preferably 50% or less. Too much humidity can again make the down damp, becoming a prime ground for bacterias that would have been eliminated during the sterilization process.

Heat is another element to monitor. If the room is hot and humid, it will cause problems. If it is hot, but not humid, it is less of a concern. Down is very resilient to heat, and thusly, the high temperatures won't affect the down. Humidity with high temperatures, however, can cause the down to rot quickly making it damp and moist. We would recommend to keep the down with a temperature of 20° C / 68° F +/- 2 degrees, with a good airflow is optimal

Letting the down breath is also very important. It is a good idea to leave bags as loose as possible, so if received in bale form, the bale should be opened to not have the down compressed for too long. Allowing the down to breath will enable the down to properly open up and will help with loft.

I suggest that while in storage the down is separated by quality as well so that there is no possibility of accidentally filling a product with the wrong material.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andy Perez, Quality Control - Allied Feather & Down