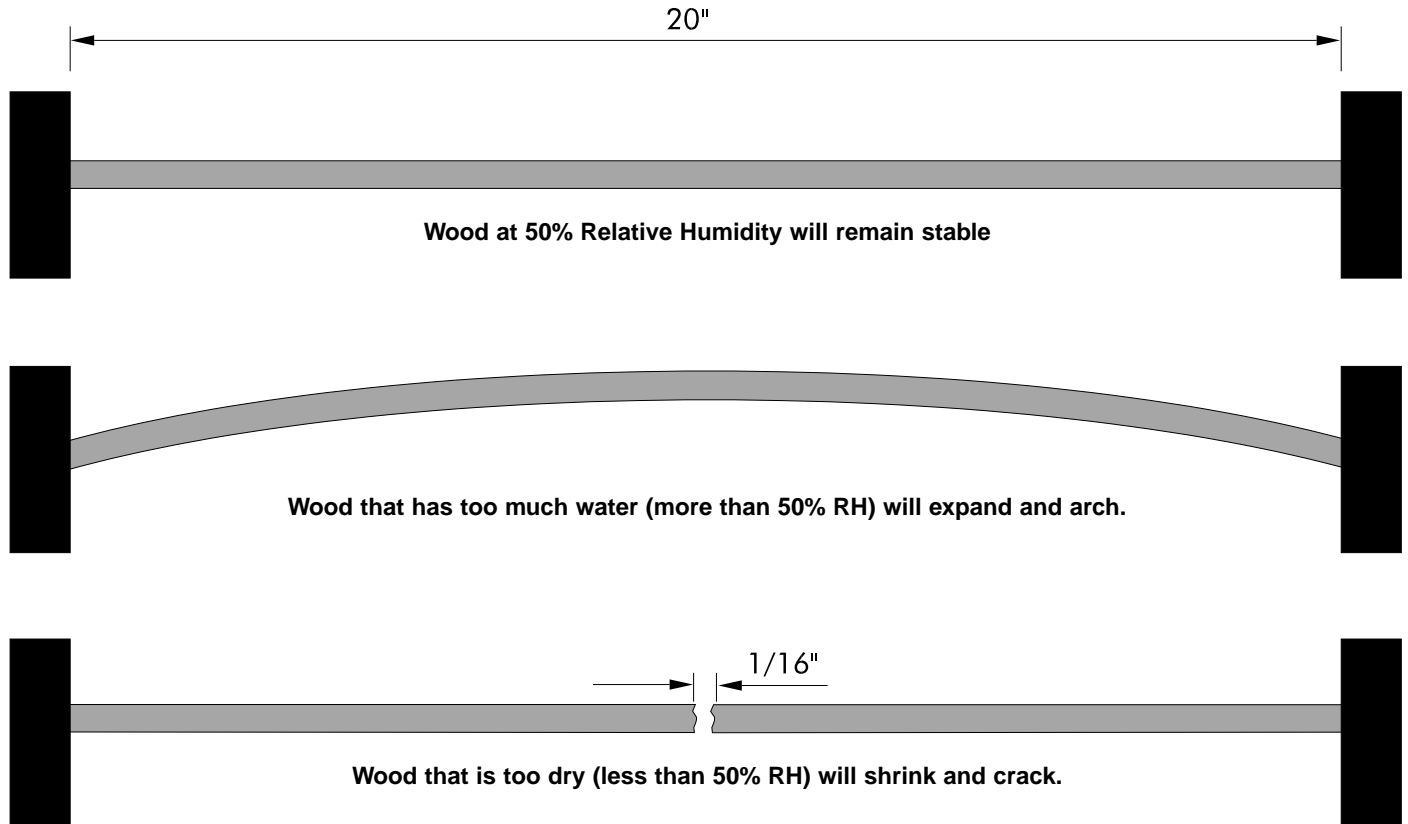


SEASONAL CHANGES AFFECT HUMIDITY



Wood is like a vegetable. Similar to celery and onions, when dried, it shrinks, becomes brittle, and cracks. When you add water, it swells up, gets heavier and soft. Guitar wood needs to have just the right amount of moisture content. If guitar wood is too dry, it

will contract, crack, sound brittle and harsh. If the wood is too moist, it will swell up, and become soft and dull.

After a guitar is glued up, braced, and finished, if there is a change in the water content of the wood, something has to give! When a guitar swells from too much moisture, the soundboard arches (which raises

the guitar action), and it becomes hard to play. When a guitar dries out, the soundboard flattens out, causing the strings to lower and buzz. Read "Symptoms of a Dry Guitar" and "Symptoms of a Wet Guitar" to fully understand the consequences of severe changes in humidity on a guitar.



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