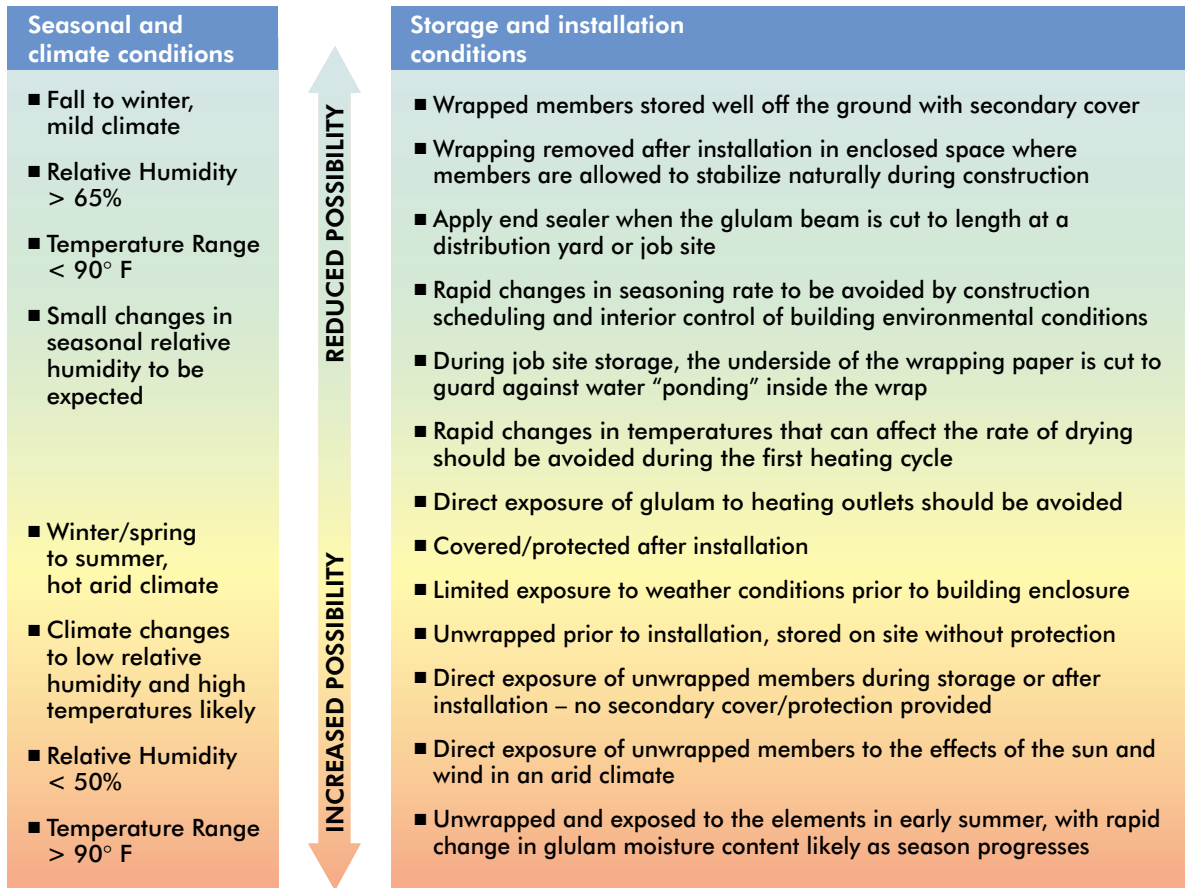




MINIMIZE GLULAM CHECKING THROUGH PROPER STORAGE AND HANDLING

Glued laminated timbers (glulam members) may develop seasoning checks as a normal function of the moisture stabilization process. The degree of checking that might occur in an individual member (risk of checking) will depend on the combined effects of the initial moisture content, the seasonal conditions, handling and storage practices at distribution facilities and job sites, and the in-service environment after installation. The degree of checking in individual members will be influenced by the rate at which the member moisture content changes from a moisture content level at the time of manufacture to its expected in-service level. There are several steps that distributors and builders can take to minimize seasoning checks. When checks do occur, they are primarily an aesthetic concern and can be filled with an elastomeric filler to improve appearance.

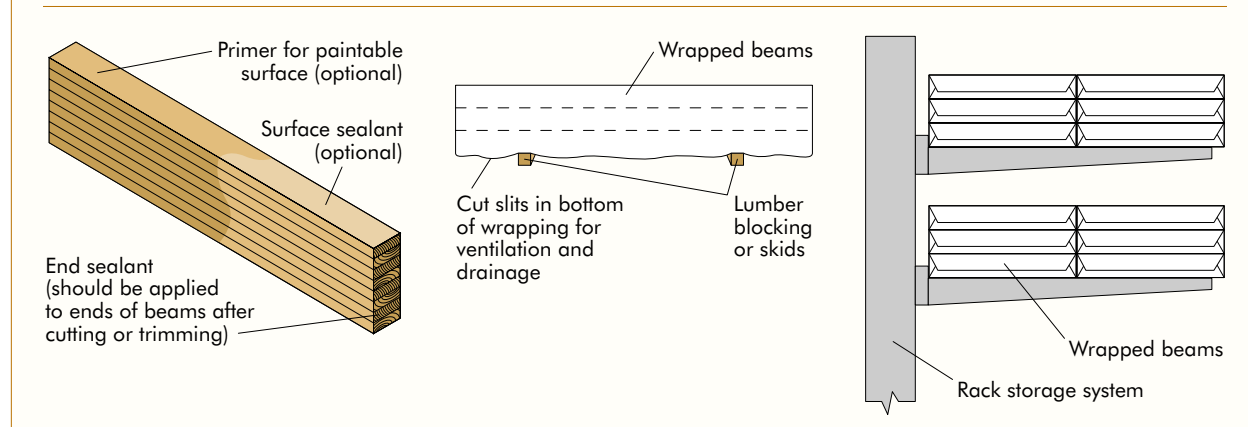
SEASONAL, STORAGE, AND INSTALLATION CONDITIONS THAT AFFECT POSSIBILITY OF CHECKING



Glulam manufacturers cannot assure that seasoning checks will not occur in individual glulam members as the result of handling and storage at distribution facilities, job site storage, installation, and regional climatic conditions. To reduce the possibility and severity of checking, it is important to coordinate delivery schedules to minimize job site storage. Guard against direct exposure of glulam members to severe conditions like high temperatures, rain, wind, and other damaging weather conditions. Hot/dry and wet/winter climates can both create high-risk environments, depending on how quickly the moisture content is lowered. If high-risk conditions cannot be avoided, take extra precautions in storage and installation to protect the beams and columns.

FIGURE 1

GLULAM STORAGE AND HANDLING



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