

With proper care and maintenance your new acoustic instrument should provide a lifetime of musical enjoyment. Without proper care and maintenance you can risk voiding your warranty, so here are some important instrument care tips:

- **Avoid leaving your instrument in direct sunlight, next to a heater or in a car.** Direct or prolonged exposure to heat can dry out woods, leading to shrinkage and cracking.
- **Keep your instrument in 40-50% relative humidity.** Proper humidity is the key to keeping your instrument in top condition. Heaters, fireplaces and air conditioning dry the air.
- **Keep your instrument in a case when not in use.** A gig bag may also provide thermal protection (dependant on the bag).
- If you live in an area with extremes in humidity (e.g. *ALL OF AUSTRALIA*) **humidity control accessories are necessary.** See your local music shop for details and humidity control options.
- **Gently clean your instrument after use.** Build up of atmospheric dust, epidermis, perspiration and rosin can reduce the sound quality of your instrument. Gently wipe these away from the surface and strings with 100% cotton cloth. Application of appropriate polish to your instrument should restore luster to the exterior finish.
- **Like your car, your instrument requires a service.** As a general rule of thumb, your instrument should be taken in for a setup / service by a professional luthier at least once a year. For professional players, you may need to undertake several services a year, depending on the frequency of use. For guitars, a neck re-alignment is perfectly normal. Main symptoms occurring as a result of problems with the neck relief is high action, or significant buzzing. If your guitar presents with any of these problems, you are probably due for a service.
- **Loosen the strings when flying.** Due to pressure & temperature changes within an aircraft, damage can occur to the neck of the guitar.