

SPIRIT BARREL PREPARATION

Your new American Oak Barrel requires rehydration within 3 weeks of receiving, to prevent it from drying out. Note that barrels are imperfect, and will have things like wood splinters inside from where the valve hole was cut.

1. INSTALL THE VALVE: To install the wood valve, seat it in the valve hole and use a hammer to tap it in. Use moderate force until it is firmly seated.



2. REHYDRATION: Fill the barrel completely with clean water and leave for 14 days. Be sure to seal the top with the leather wrapped wood bung while conditioning. During this time the staves will swell up and seal any initial leaks. If the barrel leaks substantially in the first 7 days, refill with clean water to make sure it is completely full for the second week of conditioning.

3. EXAMINATION After 14 days filled with water, examine the barrel for leaks. If it is still leaking, refill with clean water for an additional 7 days to give the staves a chance to swell shut. Be sure the top bung is tightly sealed.

4. DRAIN TO PREPARE After the leak sealing is over, open the top bung and put upside down on the include stand to drain with the valve open. Let drain for 24 hours before filling with spirits. Use a 3/8" or 1/2" siphon hose to fill your barrel unless you have a small funnel.

5. STORAGE Fill with clean water and seal if you are not planning on aging spirits for a period of time. Do not let the barrel dry out, as it may not be able to be resealed later.

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