



SEAL YOUR BARREL IMMEDIATELY – Follow the sealing instructions provided to avoid cracking. Some permanent black patina may appear on the Oakwood during the sealing process, which is authentic characteristics of genuine Oak barrels. It is important that the barrel is completely sealed before placing it onto furniture. **The bung should be kept in at all times to maintain a vacuum.** Once sealed the Barrels are best stored in a cool damp environment, this will keep the exterior from drying out and minimize evaporation. It is important that you check the content level monthly to replace any evaporation (often referred to as The Angels Share) to ensure the content never falls below 50% to prevent your barrel from cracking.

**For port users:** Hold the bung firmly in place and shake your barrel every 2 weeks, and then remove the bung for a few seconds to release fermented gas. This will maintain the port's consistency to prevent the Port from separating and seeping through the stave joints, which appears as a thick syrup. If this happens please clean it off with a warm cloth.

In the event that you have allowed your barrel to dry you should contact us for sealing and waxing advice . If it continues leaking, and **as an extreme and last last resort and only after you have followed our advice**, you could submerge the barrel in water for a couple of days, **but please note that this has the potential to cause further damage.** After it's been submerged, dry the exterior with a towel and fill it with water to see if it continues to leak. If you can't stop the leaking... cut in half and use as a planter!