

Ohitsu bucket made from Kiso Sawara cypress wood, for storing cooked rice and sushi rice

Before your first use

Kiso sawara cypress has less woody flavor than other woods like Japanese cypress. However, a little odor may be absorbed by the rice when starting to use it.

How to remove this flavor?

- ① Fill the ohitsu with rice water and let it sit for 3 hours. When filling ohitsu with rice water, please do so in the kitchen or other place where it might get wet. Kiso Sawara's dry cypress may not be able to hold all the water until the wood absorbs enough water.
- ② 3 hours later, throw in the rice water and wash the ohitsu with water. After washing, dry the ohitsu in the shade.

Possibility of resin exudates

When you receive your ohitsu, its surface may be sticky or have black dots that could be mistaken for mold. It is wood resin exuded from natural cypress.

Kiso Sawara's cypress and its resin have a waterproof and antibacterial effect. Resin is a natural component of wood and is harmless to the human body.

If the wood is sticky, just rub it with rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol).

After use

After use, please wash it with warm water. A brush removes stains better than a sponge. When there are stubborn stains, you can use a powder cleaner. After washing, drain well and dry the ohitsu in a ventilated place.

If you have a dark stain, try buffing with a scrub brush and lemon juice. Fresh lemon juice has a whitening effect.

Dark spots that may appear on copper hoops are normal.

After heavy use, the copper hoops may come off. In this case, soak ohitsu in the water, keeping the hoops in their usual place.

Daily maintenance

* Before use, wipe the inside of the Ohitsu with a well-wrung damp towel. Adequate humidity can prevent the rice from becoming sticky.

* After use, wash the ohitsu with water and a clean scrub brush. If you want to use detergent, please do not use synthetic detergent. Instead, use a salt or powder cleanser. You can prevent the ohitsu from turning black or moldy by spraying it with rubbing alcohol.

* After washing, drain and dry the ohitsu in a ventilated, non-humid room.

If you close the Ohitsu's lid, resin may leak out of the wood during storage. Please open the cover when not in use.

When you do not use ohitsu for a long time, wrap it with a cotton cloth and store it in a dry place at constant temperature.

* Please avoid using the dishwasher or direct sun drying. Quick drying can lead to loosening of the poles, warping or breaking of the wood.