

## *How To Care for Your New Wooden Bowl*

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a custom high quality wooden bowl from DK's Wooden Expressions. Thank You for your purchase! If you have any questions please feel free to contact us. We hope your bowl provides many years of joy and pleasure.

Our wooden bowls are individually hand turned from the finest quality materials and with a bit of care can last for generations. Our bowls are made from a wide-variety of materials, each with certain characteristics that will affect the way it ages. Each bowl has a durable finish applied which should, with normal use, last a lifetime. Below you will find a few tips on caring for and maintaining your new bowl.

### *Finish:*

All our wood bowls are finished with either a simple oil finish or a rubbed-out glossy lacquer. Both finishes are considered food safe. Oil finishes, such as walnut oil, allow the unique characteristics of your wood to show through and are an ideal finish for utility/salad bowls because of its durability and luster. Oil finishes allow for a natural patina to develop with repeated use over time. On the other hand, certain woods lend themselves to a rubbed out lacquer finish. A film finish like lacquer will provide a glossy sheen and luster that can highlight woods with striking and unique characteristics. A lacquer finish can be durable; however, this finish can be damaged with repeated everyday use. Thus, we recommend most lacquer finished bowls be used more for decorative purposes.

### *Bowl Care for Utilitarian Bowls such as Salad Bowls with an Oil Finish:*

- Make sure to wash out your bowl after each and every use with warm soapy water and a sponge or cloth to remove any residue food oils. Rinse bowl and then towel dry completely.
- **AVOID** soaking a wooden bowl and **NEVER put a wooden bowl in a dishwasher or microwave!**
- Occasionally, every couple of months or anytime your wooden bowl looks or feels dry, lightly oil it mineral oil or walnut oil. Neither of these oils will discolor or darken your wood excessively nor impart any flavor of their own into the bowl. Spread the oil thinly over the entire surface of the bowl, being sure to get it in the nooks and crannies of knots or decorative beads. Let the oil stand for a few minutes and then wipe and buff your bowl with a clean cotton cloth. Paper towels actually work very nicely for this as well!
- Let oil cure for 24-48 hours before reusing your bowl. Over time, oiling will likely not be needed as frequently.
- Oiled bowls, which are exposed to air and sunlight, can naturally darken over time. Lighter colored bowls may darken more dramatically. This is how a beautiful patina is created on a bowl which has been passed down through many generations. It only adds beauty and character to your bowl.

### *Bowl Care for Decorative Bowls with Lacquer Finish:*

- Minimal care is usually needed for decorative bowls. Occasionally wipe clean with a clean cloth. If needed, bowl can be wiped lightly with a soft damp cloth.
- To slow the natural darkening process, keep your bowl out of direct sunlight. Avoid exposing your bowl to sudden changes of humidity or temperature.

*DK's Wooden Expressions*

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