



## Barrel Use and Care Guide

When the barrel is new, fill with hot water, rotate and drain. Repeat until the water that comes out is clear.

Before each use check your barrel for leaks. It is normal for the oak wood to dry and shrink during shipment. You can seal the barrel by filling it with cold water and allowing the barrel to sit a couple of days. When filled with water the oak wood should expand in a time period of 2-4 days sealing all leaks.

To seal the barrel faster, fill it to  $\frac{1}{4}$  its capacity with water and place the barrel in an upright position with the spigot (faucet) pointing upward, allowing the bottom panel to leak and start sealing first. After 12 hours rotate the barrel so the faucet panel is at the bottom and so on until the barrel stops leaking.

- Keep refilling the barrel if water level lowers.
- If one side seals off before the other stop rotating the barrel keeping the leaking side at the bottom until it also seals.

If you are going to store the barrel for extended periods of time, fill the barrel with  $\frac{1}{4}$  of its capacity with water. This will avoid shrinking which causes leaks and hoops to fall off.

## How to Prepare for Use

Before using the barrel, and between uses, empty completely and use any of the following two cleaning techniques:

1. Fill the barrel half way with hot water and add one ounce of baking soda per gallon of barrel capacity. Allow the barrel to rest for 24 hours. Drain the barrel and wash it out with cold water.
2. Fill the barrel with hot water, rotate it and empty until the color of the water that comes out is transparent.