



Caring for your Hangiri or Ohitsu bowl

Possibility of resin exudates

When you receive your cypress bowl, its surface may be sticky or have black dots that could be mistaken for mould. This is resin that naturally exudes from cypress wood. This resin provides the bowl with water proofing and anti-bacterial properties. Far from being a detriment, this resin is precisely why cypress wood is the ideal material for storing sushi rice.

Follow the instructions below, with time and use the oil marks will naturally mellow. Warm water and a little rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol) or lemon juice can be used on resin stains if you wish.

Before your first use

Kiso sawara cypress has a less woody flavor than other woods. However, a little bitterness may be absorbed by the rice when starting to use it unless the below process is completed:

Fill the bowl with hot rice water (or water with 50ml of rice vinegar) and let it sit for 6 hours, overnight is also fine but not longer. Dry cypress wood may not be waterproof on first use, so leave in a place where leaking will not be problem.

Pour out the water and rinse with more water, no detergent is required. Dry the bowl with a clean cloth, then allow to cool slowly away from heat and sun.

Before every use

Fill your hangiri with water for approximately 30mins, performing this step while your sushi rice cooks, is a good way to remember it. Pour out the water and dry with a cloth before adding your sushi rice. This will ensure the wood does not absorb too much moisture and that the rice does not stick to the bowl.

After use

Wash with warm water, if rice is stuck to the bowl, soak for 1-2 hours.

After washing, dry in well ventilated area away from direct heat or sunlight. Store Ohitsu bowl and lid separately to avoid trapping humidity.

If the bowl starts to discolour brush lightly and use diluted lemon juice to lighten the colour. Copper bands will naturally spot and darken with time. If copper bands come loose, soak the bowl for several hours and store in a less dry environment in future. If storing long term, use a sealed plastic bag to prevent the wood drying out entirely