

Caring for Wood Bowls

The following are easy guidelines that will provide you with years of enjoyment.

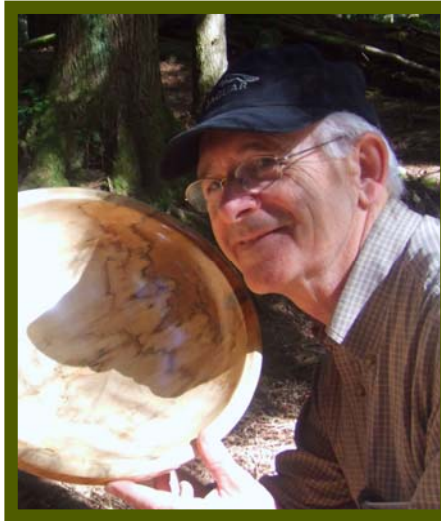
- **DO** clean your bowl after every use, wiping gently with a damp soapy cloth.
- **DON'T** place any hot food or liquid in the bowl.
- **DON'T** use metal utensils with the bowl.
- **DO** dry the bowl as soon as possible.
- **DON'T** wash it in the dishwasher.
- **DON'T** use it in the microwave.
- **DON'T** submerge it in hot water.
- **DON'T** leave water standing in it.

If the bowl dries out over time, it can be oiled using mineral oil or polished with salad bowl wax.

Please contact me if I can be of service.

Aging

The storage, humidity, and natural aging of the vessel will sometimes result in some slight change to its shape. This adds to the unique beauty of the piece.

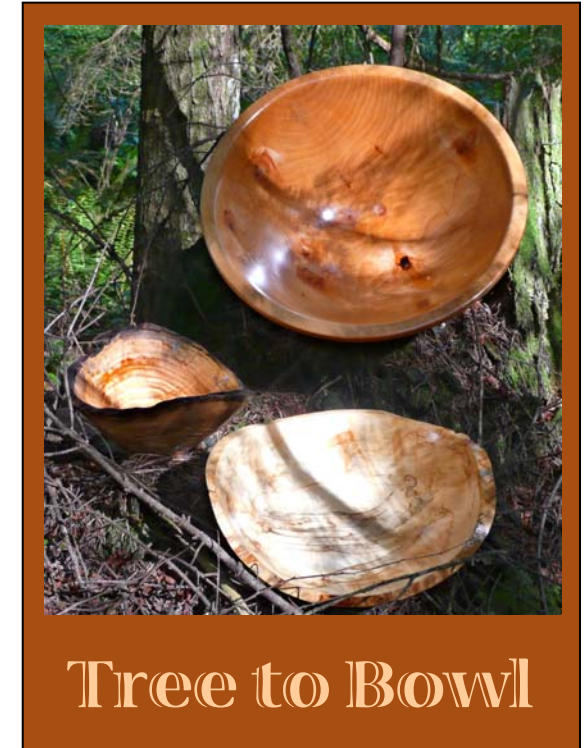


About Georges

Prior to retiring in 2004, I visited Gabriola Island and stopped at a woodturner's workshop. After spending an hour with him, I was hooked. I just marveled at the pieces he produced from what many people would say was just a rotting piece of wood.

The seed was planted, and upon my return I searched out a woodturning group (Greater Vancouver Woodturning Guild). Through the guild I attend workshops, demonstrations, and symposiums where I observe and learn from world-renowned woodturning professionals.

During my professional career as an accountant and financial manager, everything had to be exact and balanced. Woodturning offers me a different challenge: the opportunity to express my creativity and personal style. Taking a nondescript piece of wood and turning it into something unique is a joy. I also get great joy when someone buys a piece, knowing that the buyer is pleased with my work and that a child somewhere will benefit from the sale.



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HOW A BOWL IS MADE



The Wood

A log from a freshly cut tree contains a lot of moisture and is referred to as “green wood”. A turner can buy dry rounds or dry his own (the latter takes a long time). I seldom buy wood. People are usually eager to give away fallen trees, as otherwise they must pay for disposal. Green wood is easier to shape because I’m able to peel off large shavings. If the wood is dry, the shavings are smaller and closer to sawdust.

One of a Kind

Each vessel is unique. I use the original shape and characteristics of the log to determine the size, shape, and line of the finished vessel.

The log is cut in half, providing two pieces of wood for two unique bowls or vessels. The halves of a log can be similar but also very different in color and characteristics. Each half is one of a kind.

Turning and Drying

When I first turn the wood I give it a broad shape, seal it with a wax solution, and then place it on a shelf to dry. Drying time varies with the type of wood and size of the vessel; it usually takes nine months or more to allow moisture to escape slowly without the vessel cracking.

Once the vessel is dry, it must be re-mounted on the lathe for its final shape and design. I also shape the base and any other decorative carving or feature.

Finishing

The vessel is sanded with various grades of sandpaper to at least 600 grit (and frequently up to 1200 grit). During the sanding process, natural oils are used to bring out the color and grain of the wood. Finally, a coat of non-toxic salad bowl finish and/or beeswax is applied. Once dry, the surface is buffed to a silky touch.

Giving Back

There are so many young people in need of food and education. They not only need our love but also our financial support. Half of my sale proceeds are set aside and given to charitable causes.



Wood Characteristics

Birds Eye: A pattern of small rounded lustrous spots, found almost exclusively in hard maple.

Burls: A wart-like deformation usually found on the trunk as a result of an injury or infection and an unformed bud that does not grow properly.

Curly: Contortion of grain direction giving the appearance of undulating waves as they reflect light differently. Usually found in Maple and Birch.

Fiddleback: A curly figure exposed by quarter sawing, giving very straight grain with almost perpendicular curls from edge to edge.

Figured: Having lines in the opposite direction to the tree’s grain. They can appear to move when you tilt the piece from side to side.

Quilted: A pillow-like, three-dimensional effect caused by closely crowded bulges in the log’s growth layers.

Spalting: Partial fungal decay that causes discoloration or fine lines.

Wood Species

The following are the types of wood I’ve worked with. (My favourites are starred.)

Alder	Cherry	Pine
Apple *	Dogwood *	Plum *
Arbutus *	Elm	Poplar
Birch	Horse chestnut	Walnut *
Butternut *	Maple *	
Cedar	Oak	