



How to Use and Maintain your Ofuro tub (updated 2019.4.1)

To use and preserve your wooden bathtub in good condition for many years, proper use and daily maintenance are extremely important. Carefully read and follow the instructions below.

Where to install wooden bathtubs

It is strongly recommended that you install your bathtub so to avoid high humidity and insure adequate ventilation (natural cross ventilation is best). You should also avoid direct sunlight (especially while the tub is empty) and avoid heat radiators or air-conditioning / dehumidification systems.



After installation

Place a bucket filled with cold water inside the bathtub and put a cover on the bathtub until you begin to use it. This prevents the wood from getting so dry that it may crack by shrinking.

Regular use

Before filling the ofuro, take two or three buckets of water first from the faucet to curb rust or impurities. The wooden bathtub may be stained by foreign particles in the water. Check if the water is clean before filling the bathtub.

Maintenance

- 1) Ventilate the bathroom to avoid buildup of humidity when you do not use the bathtub.
- 2) Drain the water after taking a bath. Wipe off the moisture left on the surface of the bathtub with a soft cloth. Avoid hard brushes as they cause scratches. Switch on the ventilating fan or open the bathroom window for 30 minutes. However, do not expose the bathtub to direct sunlight, as it may crack.
- 3) On the other hand, avoid situations where the tub may dehydrate and this may result in a crack. For this reason, use the tub at least once in five days to avoid the wood to dry out. (This period may be shorter, depending on the climate of where you live.) When you do not use the bathtub for some days, place a bucket full of water in the bathtub and put a cover on the bathtub, as shown in the figure above.



- 4) Wipe the bathtub at least once a week with a soft cloth. If the wood feels sticky, wash with a delicate detergent such as baby shampoo. Dilute the baby shampoo 10 fold with water. After cleaning, wash away the liquid thoroughly and wipe off the moisture with a soft cloth. Remains of soap will result in mold stains so be sure to remove it completely. Never use a powder cleanser as it may damage the wood.

5) To clean black mold on the bathtub:

- a) Dilute a commercially available chlorine bleach 10 fold with water.
- b) Soak the liquid into non-colored cloths and put them on the spots for 30 minutes.

c) Take the cloths off and wash the bathtub with abundant water.

Be aware that leaving the soaked cloths on for more than 30 minutes may decolorate and damage the bathtub.

Respect the warnings as displayed in the detergent label.

Ventilate the bathroom well and wear plastic gloves while manipulating chemicals.

And most importantly... enjoy the hot water!