



TONNELIER d'aujourd'hui

User Guide
Vats & casks

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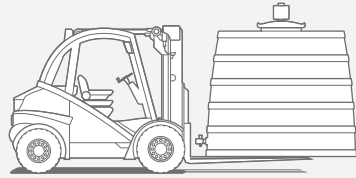
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1 . COMMISSIONING

A . Installation

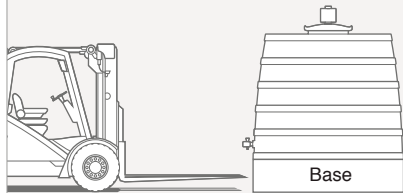
01

Using a forklift truck of sufficient capacity, unload the vat, with the front of the vat towards the forklift cab.



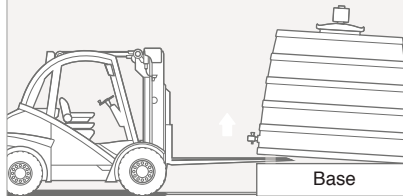
02

Lower the vat onto the base.



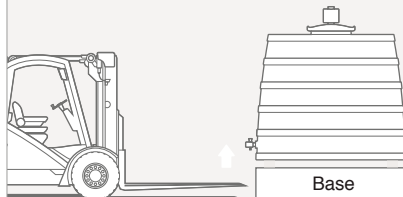
03

Lift the vat at the front and slide an oak beam underneath.



04

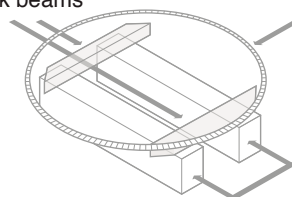
Do the same (point 03) at the rear.



05

After installation, the vat should be positioned as shown in the drawing opposite, i.e. with the oak beams perpendicular to the base and the bottom parts of the vat.

Rear of the tank
Oak beams



Vat staves

Front of the tank

Base

B. First use

Oak is a living material, it evolves with its environment while being sensitive to temperature, hygrometry, etc... So that your large vessel finds its place and balance in your cellar, and before starting to use it, some simple operations should be carried out to guarantee perfect sealing of your new working tool.

To avoid contamination of your vat/cask, be sure to use drinking water, free from organochlorine compounds.

- 1° Close the doors and hatches.
- 2° Start filling with water to a depth of five to ten centimetres, to allow the wood to swell. Leaks are to be expected during this operation. The oak has to adapt to the hygrometric differences between the exterior and interior of the vessel.
- 3° Once the wood has swollen and there are no more leaks, add another ten centimetres of water and leave the wood to continue swelling.
- 4° Repeat the third operation until your vat/cask is completely full.
- 5° Once your container is full, leave it on water for between 24 and 36 hours (not more, to avoid the water stagnating).
- 6° Drain the water.

Your vessel is now in the best condition for use, and ready to be filled as you wish.

NB : This procedure takes around 2 to 3 days.

C. After being empty for a long time

The water-filling procedure is the same as for first use (see section above).

The wood does need more time to swell, however, so the time between progressive fillings is longer (steps 1 to 4). The resting time after filling the vessel is the same (step 5).

In this case, the total time for water filling is about two weeks.

By following these instructions strictly, you are guaranteed an optimal seal. If, however, the wood proves difficult to swell and leaks continue, do not hesitate to contact us.

So that your equipment is ready in time for harvest, allow enough time for filling your large vessels with water: this can be a relatively long period (up to 2 weeks).

2. MAINTENANCE

A. Interior of the vat or cask

Having used your large vessel, you now have to empty it.
The interior then needs to be cleaned, to retain all its original qualities.

- 1° Rinse with cold water (drinking water and free from organochlorine compounds).
- 2° Remove tartrates by brushing vigorously with warm water (Caution, water that is too hot is liable to damage your vat/cask).
- 3° Rinse again with cold water and allow to drain.
- 4° Burn sulphur (2 g/HL), in the case of a wine vessel.
- 5° You can refill your vat or cask.

Chemical tartrate removal is also possible (step 2), scrupulously following the procedure provided by the supplier of the product.

We recommend keeping your vats or casks full throughout the year, to best ensure sealing. This limits variations in the hygrometry of the wood.

Should you need to leave your large vessel empty for some time, we recommend drying the interior.

Carry out steps 1, 2 and 3 above and then:

- + Leave doors and hatches open and regularly check inside (for vessels intended for spirits such as Cognac or brandy).

OR

- + Burn sulphur every month to give 2 to 3 g SO₂ per hectolitre (for wine vessels)

A. Interior of the vat or cask

WOOD

Since your vat/cask is made of oak, it should be protected from sprays of liquid. Your large vessel is primarily a working tool and can sometimes be difficult to protect completely. However, if it is sprayed with liquid, we advise cleaning the stained part as quickly as possible with water, using a sponge or soft brush.

If you are not able to clean the stain immediately, it will need to be lightly sanded and/or scraped. You should then apply linseed oil or varnish, depending on your vessel's finish.

The first coat of varnish brings out the pores of the wood, so it is advisable to sand it once the first coat is dry (using a very fine grain) and apply a second coat. We can also quote for a full exterior cleaning service: ask us.

HOOPS AND STAINLESS-STEEL

Accessories Hoops

We recommend choosing a vessel with painted hoops, for better resistance over time. To keep your vat/cask looking good, you just need to touch up the paint in case of stains on the hoops.

If, however, you have opted for untreated hoops, it is best to apply a metallic paint of a similar colour to the unpainted hoops.

Stainless-steel accessories

All our accessories are in 316L stainless steel (nickel-chromium-molybdenum austenitic stainless steel), i.e. food-grade stainless steel, specific to marine environments and more resistant than 304L stainless steel (nickel-chromium austenitic stainless steel) .

You can simply clean them with drinking water, free from organochlorine compounds.

3. CELLAR ENVIRONMENT

As oak is a living material, it should be stored in an environment with stable temperature, ventilation and humidity.

Without good storage conditions, we cannot guarantee the stability of your oak vats and casks.

A. Temperature / Air humidity relationship

Here are the balanced conditions (humidity / temperature) for the wood which we recommend for your cellar:

Temperature of the cellar [°C]	Minimum humidity of the air (%)	Maximum humidity of the air (%)
10	76	79
15	77,5	79,5
20	77	80
25	78	81
30	79	82

B. Ventilation

Regarding ventilation, we recommend a complete change of air in the cellar once a day.

C. Other

In general, there should be no sudden changes to the balance of the wood of your vats or casks.

You should therefore avoid:

- ✚ Nearby windows leading to the risk of “sunburn” of your vessel
- ✚ Nearby sources of ventilation liable to dry out your vat or cask quickly, and to compromise the seal

However, if you encounter any difficulty in the use or maintenance of your large vessel, our team is available to provide the necessary advice.



TONNELIER d'aujourd'hui

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