

White Oak Bowl Drying Process

I turned this bowl from a tree I obtained the beginning of May 2006. About 11 1/4" in diameter.



I turn bowls close to the pith as can be seen here. I have found that even if the pith area cracks it is going to be turned away when returning the rim. Even if I trimmed an inch from the pith when roughing out the blank, as most people suggest, the end grain edge will deform upward requiring further reduction in bowl height. I seldom ever have to trim the walls lower because of cracks extending from the pith.



The wall thickness is 3/4" and the rim is about 1" thick. The rule of thumb is to rough bowls to 10% of the diameter. Following that rule I would have turned the walls to 1 1/8". The rim is thicker because I plan to form a bead on the outside of the bowl to facilitate lifting it with one hand.



The bowl was placed in a 13 quart stainless steel bowl. No problem with green white oak it goes right to the bottom.



The cover I use is made by placing a heavy piece of plastic sheeting over the bowl then wrapping the rim with plastic shipping tape. By stretching the tape a reasonably tight fit is achieved. This is only the second cover I have made in five years.



After soaking about 20 hours the bowl was removed. The bowl could have been removed sooner but the longer soak time suited my schedule.



After allowing to dry for about one half hour it was ready for wrapping in a brown paper grocery bag.



After cutting the paper roughly to size it is helpful to tape down two sides to keep the paper in place while taping.



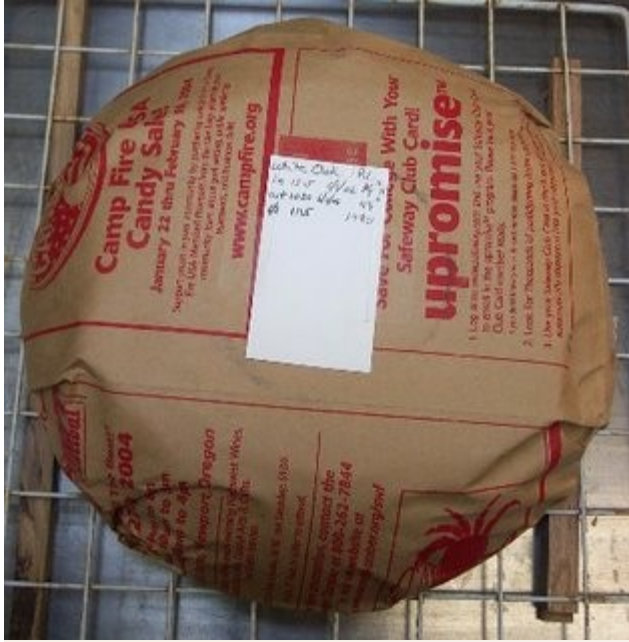
Gather the paper as you wrap tape around the rim.



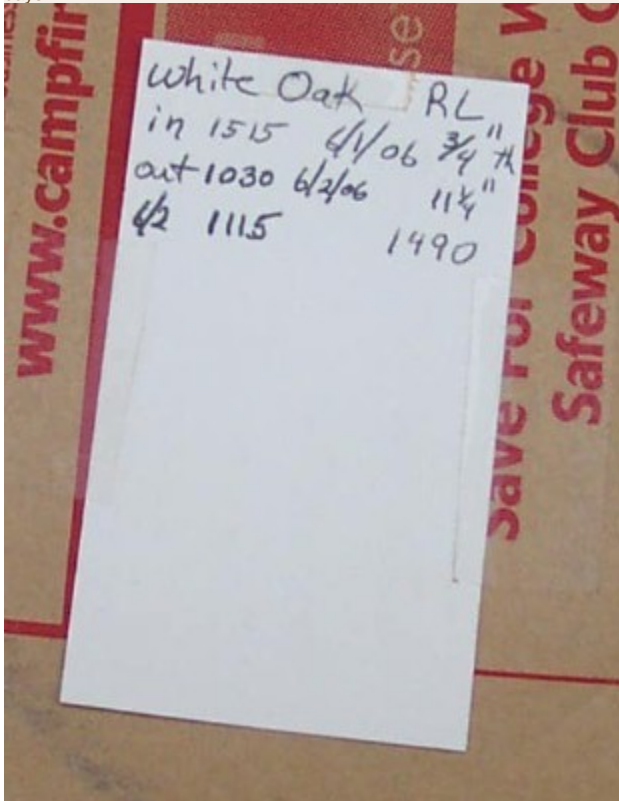
Trim the paper to the in side edge of the rim.



Weigh the wrapped bowl and place it upside down on a rack to allow air to circulate inside the bowl.



A data card is not necessary but at least write the date, time, and initial weight on the paper. This will allow you to estimate when to start checking the bowl weight if you want to turn it as soon as possible. Most bowls are dry in about 2 weeks. I expect this white oak bowl to stop losing weight in 8 to 10 days.



My intent was to post this information the bowl was wrapped and set aside to dry. Then post the weight each day so turners could follow the progress. Life sometimes gets in the way of good intentions.

White oak from Red Lion Motel, Kelso, WA. Cut down 1 May 2006.
Diameter: 11.25"

Height: 3"

Wall thickness: 0.75"

Rim thickness: 1"

Recess cut in bottom for expanding grip with chuck jaws: 0.25" deep, 3.25" diameter

Bowl into alcohol solution: 1515, 06/01/2006

Bowl out of soaking solution: 1030, 06/02/2006

Weight in grams.

06/02 - 1115 - 1490

06/03 - 0040 - 1366

06/03 - 0625 - 1324

06/03 - 1520 - 1250

06/04 - 1045 - 1198

06/04 - 2025 - 1176

06/05 - 0840 - 1144

06/06 - 0055 - 1112

06/06 - 0835 - 1106

06/06 - 2150 - 1082

06/07 - 0800 - 1072

06/07 - 2000 - 1058