



Midwest Homebrewing Supply

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Oak Barrel Treatment and Storage

New Barrel Treatment

1. Soak the inside of the barrel to expand the wood. This should take several days.
2. Empty and fill with a solution of **Barolkleen** mixed to a strength of 1 pound to 5 gallons of hot water and leave for at least 48 hours. You could also use a hot solution of sodium carbonate (washing soda; **soda ash** – 2 oz. for every 3 gallons.)
3. Drain the barrel and flush it with clean water until water runs clear from the barrel. Mix a solution of two ounces of **sodium metabisulphite** and one ounce of **citric acid** in two gallons of warm water. Pour this solution in the barrel and roll it around so it comes in contact with all interior surfaces of the barrel. Drain the sulphite solution, rinse the barrel well and fill with wine.

Sterilizing Barrels

1. Rinse barrel several times with cool water, drain it and allow it to dry completely.
2. If it is clean, burn a **sulfur strip** inside the barrel in a flame-proof holder with the bung closed until all the oxygen is used up. Avoid breathing the fumes and work in a well ventilated area.
3. Mix your **Barrolkleen** again (3 oz. per gal.) and fill half full. Bung the barrel and swish around periodically for 45 minutes. Let stand until cool then drain and rinse.
4. To remove traces of chemicals, mix up **Campden tablets** (1/4 oz.), **citric acid** (1/4 oz.) in 1 gallon of water. Slosh for a few minutes, empty and rinse.

Barrel Storage

1. Never store a barrel dry!
2. After it has been cleaned and sterilized, fill your barrel 2/3 full with water and add: 1 gram **sodium metabisulphite crystals** and 1 gram **citric acid** in a little hot water for every liter of barrel volume. Top off the barrel with water and store tightly bunged in a cool cellar.
3. If you store for more than 2 weeks, you will need to change out the solution.