



Bartok design Japan Co.

Japanese hinoki products • wooden bathtubs

3-6-2 kitano-cho, chuo-ku
Kobe 650-0003 Japan
tel: 078-262-6811 fax: 078-262-7151
www.bartokdesign.com/japan/

Congratulations for your purchase of a Japanese soaking bathtub.

We ask you to examine thoroughly the maintenance package here below and keep it for reference at all times.

Feel free to contact us for any doubt or problem.

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CONTACT INFORMATION
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Company name: Bartok design Co.

Address: 3-6-2 Kitano-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe

Tel. (+81)-78-262-6811

Fax: (+81)-78-262-7151

email: japan@bartokdesign.com

Person in charge: Mr. Iacopo Torrini (Manager)

Emergency contact (cell.phone): (+81)-90-8205-1200

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PRODUCTS OVERVIEW
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- **Quality:** we work mainly with 4 types of Japanese coniferous wood: natural hinoki from kiso valley (200 years+), planted hinoki from Yoshino (60 years+), asnaro hiba from Aomori prefecture (200 years+) and sawara wood (100 years+)
- **Manufacture:** all our production is order made by the client's specifications and sizes. Manufacture uses mainly traditional methods and manual tools (saw, chisel and plane) and some basic power-tools (rotary saw, drill), employing the technique of Edo period ship builders.
- **Products:** our main products are wooden bathtubs, floor duckboards, wooden accessories and rough/prefinished lumber for construction.
- **Materials compliance:**
 - Tubs: our tubs did not go thru any plumber association standards testing. We do not have ASME or CSA certifications. In most cases ofuros clear the legal requirements by being filed as soaking tubs (hence they are not sanitary equipment)
 - Glue: we use urea based glues for the lamination of the wood. It is very stable and safe. Refer to the specific COSHH documentation. If explicitly requested, we can use a natural glue obtained from rice starch. Please inquire about the details.
 - Finishing: unless not otherwise specified, we finish the products with one coat of "Kihada Ichiban". This material does not produce a coat and penetrates the wood. Its hydro-repellent properties ensure a longer lifespan and easier maintenance. Refer to the specific documentation

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MAINTENANCE / USE INSTRUCTIONS

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- **Premise:** Hinoki wood has superior resistance to rot, mold, termites and insects in general. Anyway it should always be remembered that it is a natural material after all and extreme conditions should be avoided. Lifespan of a hinoki tub can be from 10 years to 30 years and more, depending on the environment and how the tub is being taken care of.
 - **Dryness:** Hinoki wood suffers from an over-dry environment, especially in the first 1-2 years after it has been set in place. The optimal relative humidity level is 50% (same as it is normally recommended for furniture, pianos and dwellers as well). It is a good practice to keep a hygrometer inside the bathroom.
 - **Sunlight:** It should not be directly exposed to strong sunlight. If this is the case, use UV-cut or Low-E glass in the windows/skylight. If placed outdoors, always use a spa-cover to protect the ofuro when not in use.
 - **Heating:** switch off the central heating in the bathroom when the tub is not used. Especially avoid floor heating under the tub. If you need to use the heating while the tub is empty, leave 10cm (4") of water inside the tub. Be aware that wood can be damaged by the use of airconditioning.
 - **Soap:** No soap/oil/wax should be used while bathing nor for cleaning. This would clog the natural wood pores and create a patina on the wood where bacteria will proliferate making the wood opaque, slimy and vulnerable to rot.
 - **Winterizing:** No special care is needed for the winter season, anyway some precautions must be taken when the tub is not used for long periods. When leaving the tub unused for 2 weeks or more, simply place a bucket of water inside the tub and cover the tub with a plastic sheet.
 - **Ventilation:** Ensure that there is a good natural ventilation (a bathroom with a window is strongly recommended) so the wood can "automatically" regulate its degree of humidity. If the ventilation is scarce some stains may appear overtime. (see→ Cleaning.)
 - **Cleaning:** It is a good practice to quickly wipe the bathtub with a towel to remove the excess water after draining it. This is all for the standard maintenance. In case you need to remove humidity stains: pour abundant warm water on the area until well absorbed by the wood. Then rub gently with a cloth sprayed with alcohol or other stain remover. Rinse thoroughly.
 - **Treatment:** A hinoki tub does not really need extraordinary maintenance. Anyway, you may apply some "Hiba-oil" to clean and re-hydrate the wood (about once a year).
 - **Repairs:** When wood becomes dehydrated because of extreme environmental conditions, it may crack. If it occurs, it will be most likely a thru crack. In this case, use an underwater epoxy sealant: it should be pushed into the crack with a spackle, so it can fully penetrate. After the epoxy is dry, it can be sanded or planed.
Also, it may happen that some heavy object falls on the tub indenting it. In this case, place a thick towel folded twice or 3 times on the damaged area and pour some hot water (first try with 50 deg. Centigrades). Leave it 10 minutes. Repeat 2-3 times. The wood should return back to its original shape almost complete.
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