



How to cure and maintain a “palo santo” wooden mate gourd

Mate gourds made of Palo Santo are beautiful objects in and of themselves. The Palo Santo wood emits a lovely aroma and adds a distinctive flavour to the yerba. However it takes more effort to cure and maintain a Palo Santo gourd and so they are not for everybody.

Curing your Palo Santo gourd:

- 1: Using a kitchen brush (or a toothbrush) apply a coat of vegetable oil (butter can also be used) to the interior of the gourd
- 2: Some people recommend applying to the exterior of the gourd as well
- 3: Leave the gourd for at least 12 hours to allow the oil to soak into the wood
- 4: After 12 hours wipe the gourd clean with kitchen paper
- 5: Wash the interior of the gourd with warm water (definitely NOT boiling water)
- 6: Fill the gourd with moist yerba (it can be yerba that has already been used), add warm water (definitely NOT boiling water) and leave to sit
- 7: The following day, remove the yerba from the gourd
- 8: Repeat this process from the beginning without washing the interior of the gourd...2 times will be sufficient to fully cure the gourd

Maintaining your Palo Santo gourd:

- 1: The key to maintaining your Palo Santo gourd is to minimise variations in temperature and humidity as they can cause the wood to crack causes it to crack
- 2: It is ideal if you use the gourd every day so that it is always in contact with the yerba and the water
- 3: If you only use the gourd periodically never rinse the gourd with cold water after use
- 4: Remove the yerba with a teaspoon and leave the gourd to dry naturally
- 5: Once the gourd has dried the remaining yerba can be removed by turning the gourd upside down
- 6: However avoid banging the gourd!!
- 7: If the gourd has not been used for a long period of time it is recommended that you repeat the curing process