

MYRTLEWOOD FACTORY OUTLET

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Myrtlewood · Nature's Gift to Oregon · Oregon's Gift to You

Early explorers of the Southern Oregon Coast were amazed to see large, tropical looking evergreen trees spotted on the wooded hillsides. These trees looked like just some small trees growing in the Holy Lands, so they called them Myrtle Trees. The Oregon Myrtle Tree is easy to recognize, it looks like overgrown shrubs that have been freshly pruned. The leaves can be used for cooking in place of the bay and are also used as the base for perfume. The nut, olive like in appearance, is used for jewelry and novelty items.

Due to the slow growth of the Myrtle Tree, it develops burls which, when polished, have exquisite, intricate and delicate markings (birdseye, ribbon, fiddleback). The wood is extremely dense and finely grained which makes it ideal for trays, bowls and other fine items. It has a color range not to be found in any other wood going from light tan to deep golden brown, from shades of gray to velvet black, with various hues of the rainbow intermingling. It is impossible to match myrtlewood as no two pieces are the same. This is especially true in the choosing of bowls etc., as all pieces are handcrafted resulting in each piece being truly "one of a kind."

Some little known historical facts include:

1. In 1869, the golden spike, now on display in a museum at Stanford University, was driven into a myrtlewood tie marking the completion of the transcontinental railroad.
2. Hudson Bay trappers were known to carry myrtle leaves and brew a tea remedy for the constant threat of chill.
3. In depression years, the city of North Bend issued myrtlewood script after the only bank in town failed. Coins ranged from 50¢ to \$10.00
4. Famed novelist Jack London had an entire suite of furniture made entirely of Myrtlewood.

These are just a few of the many significant points in the history of myrtlewood, as the beauty, durability and historical value of the myrtlewood is unequalled.

Care of Myrtlewood Items

Do not let food stand in articles and do not let the pieces soak in water. Just wash in warm, soapy water, dry promptly and enjoy your beautiful myrtlewood. Please do not wash these fine pieces in the dishwasher. For the oiled or satin finish, a little mineral oil (found in any drug store) rubbed into the article will keep it looking as new. *Do Not Use Salad / Cooking Oil* as it can turn rancid while mineral oil will not. Oil finished dishes may be used for either hot or cold food. Gloss food dishes should only be used for cold foods. Setting your myrtlewood in direct sunlight will darken the items and in the case of woodburned items would/could result in the loss of contrast.

We are happy to be able to bring the work of many skilled craftsmen, true artists in their fields of creativity, into our shop so you may enjoy the beauty of their endeavors. We in Oregon are especially proud of our myrtlewood industry and all who participate in this labor of joy and pride in workmanship. Myrtlewood truly is nature's gift to Oregon and Oregon's gift to you.