

Understanding Tree Growth

Trees produce their food from sun-light, water, carbon dioxide, and soil nutrients. A well managed stand of trees ensures that each tree has the space to expose leaf area to the sun and rain for faster, more robust growth. In a proper management system, aging trees are culled and milled.

Each year trees add a layer of new wood in the cambium layer between the old wood and the bark. As rings are added, the tree trunk and branches grow in diameter.



A maple tree that is 50 years of age will have 50 rings. Each year defined by a dark and lighter ring. In the spring when the leaves come out, most of the water and nutrients move up just inside the bark. This year's growth starts just inside of the bark and it will be soft and supple.

It is at this last year's growth that the bark can begin to separate after you bring it home. Your home's humidity levels are usually drier than the outside air where the tree grew. Therefore a little love and nurturing will allow you to keep your functional art as true as if it came from the living tree.

Caring and Cleaning



Stand the Cheese Board upright in the sink and cleanse with soap and warm water. Lemon juice or bleach can be used on stains such as berries or red wine.

Use a brush on crevices or bark. Rinse thoroughly and wipe dry. Allow to dry for several hours.

To protect your board and to restore it to its original rich colour, apply a small amount of protectant (a

paste made from beeswax and food grade mineral oil). Ask for it at the store where it is purchased. You may also try vegetable oil (not olive oil — it is too fragrant). Allow time for absorption, and wipe off the leftover paste or oil.



Should the bark begin to detach, you may use some wood glue to fill the gap being careful to wipe any excess glue off with a damp cloth. Hold in place with a set of elastics or rubber bands until the glue is dry overnight.