

# Woodcraft Arts



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Thank you for purchasing a collapsible wooden basket from Woodcraft Arts. Or, perhaps you received one as a gift. In any case, there are a few things you need to know about your basket.

The proper way to open the basket is to hold it with one hand on each side where the handle is attached to the basket body. Let the basket fall open naturally and then use your fingers and thumb to turn the handle up and lever it into place on the base. Some baskets may be tight, and require a little bit of pressure to push the handle onto the base. The handle will now insure that the basket will stay open until you wish to close it.

When closing the basket it is important to note that the handle should only go one way. This is because the basket and handle are cut from one flat piece of wood. If you try to push the handle down the wrong way you will usually feel a slight resistance. Push the handle in the other direction and you will feel it go easily.

Your basket has been treated with a Danish Oil finish. The Danish Oil penetrates the wood to protect it and emphasize the grain and color of the wood. Generally you will not have to do anything but dust off your basket from time to time. The oil finish seals against water, so you can wipe it with a slightly damp cloth, but you do not want to immerse it in water. If water gets into the grooves of your basket it may cause the wood grain to swell and your basket may not work properly.

If your basket starts to look a little dull after a while, you can buy Danish Oil, Tung Oil, Linseed Oil, or “Butchers Block Oil” which is the same as pure Mineral Oil at most hardware stores or home centers. Make sure you use a product with no stain in it.

Just follow directions, put a liberal amount of oil on a clean rag, wipe it on, let it sit for 5 minutes, then use a dry rag to wipe it off. Be sure to allow the basket to dry for an hour or so before using it again.

If your basket gets a mark or a scratch on it from use, you can use fine sandpaper to sand it out. I use a palm sander with 150 or 220 grit sandpaper to put a final finish on the baskets. But you can hand sand the basket by wrapping sandpaper around a hard block. Re-oil the basket. Let it dry and your basket will be spiffed up and looking like new again.