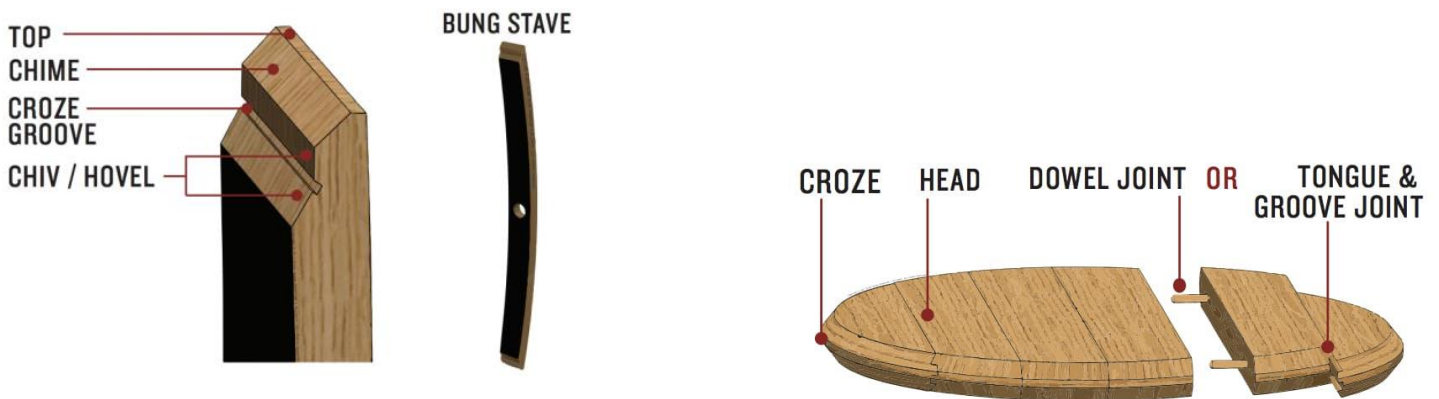


# Barrel Anatomy and Inspection

By Matt Albrecht, River Drive Cooperage & Millwork



As a cooperage and millwork company, we pride ourselves in providing the most current, useful information and training related to all things barrel. Here is a look at the parts of the barrel and how we to perform barrel inspections. These inspections are crucial for ensuring that the barrel has no damage or imperfections that could lead to leaks, bacteria, or off flavors during the barrel aging process.



(continued)

# Barrel Anatomy and Inspection

(page 2)

## Barrel Inspection:

### 1. Exterior Inspection

- Are all bands present?
- Do rivets align with bung
- Is the bung sealed?
- Are there any holes or damage?
- Are all the bands snug?

### 2. Pressure Check

- Leave bung intact.
- Use 1/8 in drill bit to drill through bung.
- Listen and feel for airflow.

### 3. Interior Inspection

- Shine light through bung.
- Inspect interior.
- Inside should be clean.
- No mold.
- No critters or bugs.

### 4. Odor Check

- Slowly Smell barrel interior.
- No vinegar smell
- No nail polish remover smell
- No acetone or solvent smell
- No artificial butter smell
- No mildew

### 5. Deoxygenate

- Use the barrel immediately, or purge with inert gas (i.e. Nitrogen, Argon, CO<sub>2</sub>, or Ozone).
- Then seal and safely store.

— EXTERIOR —

— PRESSURE —

— INTERIOR —

— ODOR —

— DEOXYGENATE —



# 5 STEP BARREL INSPECTION

EXTERIOR

PRESSURE

INTERIOR

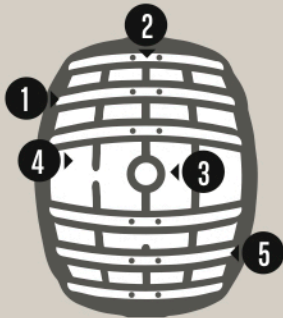
ODOR

DEOXYGENATE



EXTERIOR INSPECTION

## OVERALL EXTERIOR CHECK



1. Are all bands present?
2. Do rivets align with bung?
3. Bung should be sealed.
4. No holes or obvious damage.
5. Are all the bands snug?

INTERIOR INSPECTION



1. Shine light through bung.
2. Inspect interior.
3. No mold.
4. No critters, bugs.

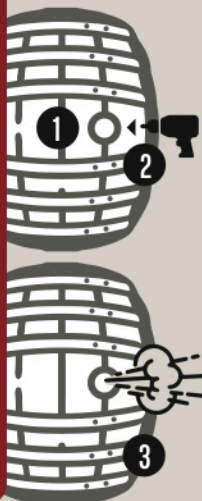
ODOR TESTING



1. Slowly smell barrel interior.
2. No vinegar, nail polish remover, acetone, any solvent, mildew or "artificial butter" smell.

PRESSURE TESTING

## TESTING FOR LEAKS AND A QUALITY SEAL

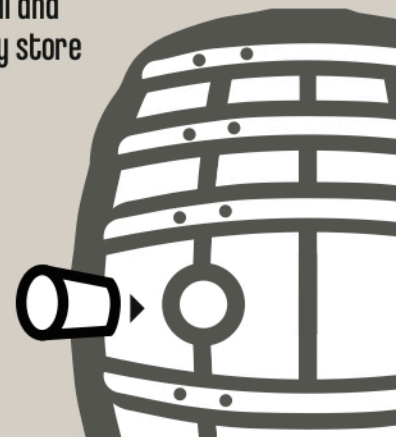


1. Leave bung intact.
2. Use 1/8 in drill bit and drill through bung.
3. Listen or feel for air flow (in or out)

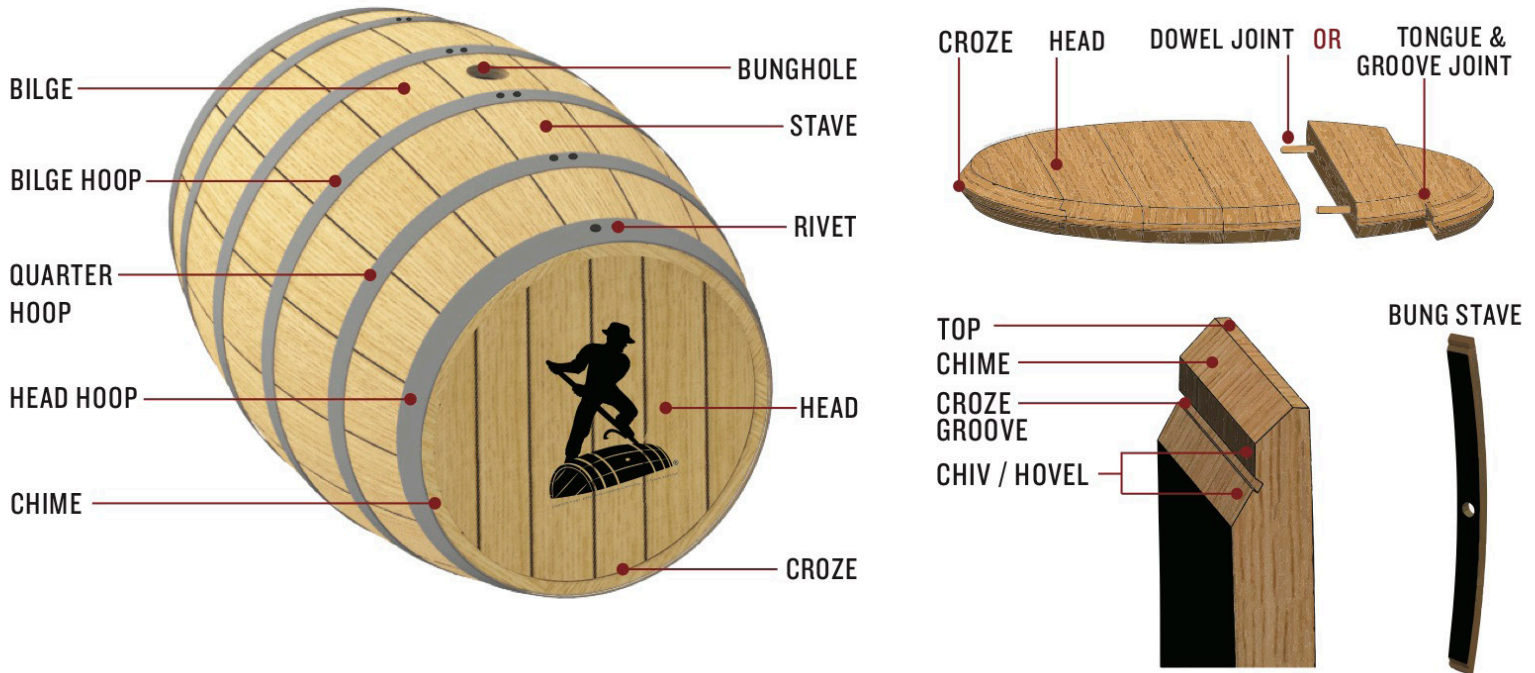
DEOXYGENATE

1. Use barrel immediately, or purge with inert gas. (i.e. Nitrogen, Argon, CO2, or Ozone)

2. Seal and safely store



# BARREL ANATOMY



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**Owner/Founder, River Drive Cooperage**

*Matt Albrecht grew up in a family of woodworkers and craftsmen. Starting River Drive in 2008, he quickly focused their woodworking skills towards wooden barrels, seeking to improve and revitalize the nearly lost art of coopering. Since, Matt and his team have outgrown the 2 car garage they started in, and now run River Drive Cooperage and Millwork on an old 40 acre farm in scenic New England..*