

Thank you for ordering a mould and deckle from Chester Creek Press! Here are a few notes about caring for your new mould:

The wood parts were treated with a wood preservative. There may be a residual waxy feel. A good rinsing in your vat or a bathtub will remove most of it, otherwise it will go away after a bit of use.

It probably isn't necessary to treat it ever again, but if you'd like, a light sanding of the outside of the mould, and the upper side of the deckle, followed by a light coat of a preservative like Thompson's Water Seal should do it. Don't sand the edges of the deckle that contact the screen. Treating the ribs without getting preservative on the screen would be difficult, so I wouldn't bother.

Ribs cracking at the ends is common. As long as the crack is small and the rib doesn't fall apart it shouldn't effect sheet forming. If it does let me know.

After some use the sloped sides of the deckle may become rough due to the grain raising from being soaked in water. A light sanding there may be a good idea.

Nails in the brass strips sometimes come loose. They can be easily fixed by pulling the nail out, lightly tapping a toothpick into the hole and cutting it off flush with the brass, then hammering the nail back in. A small amount of super glue on the toothpick and nail wouldn't hurt.

If you don't want to do any maintenance, no worry. Despite what paint and finish companies would like us to believe, wood is very resistant to damage from water if dried and stored properly. The single most important things are to keep the mould and deckle away from extremes of heat like direct sunlight or radiators, and to store it after use in a way that allows plenty of free air circulation so it can dry slowly, naturally, and completely. I like to prop mine up on edge with the deckle detached from the mould for a day or longer, and then store it assembled, lying flat, with something like a piece of book board or plywood on top to protect the screen. Just make sure it's completely dry before you cover it. A little weight on the covering is a good idea.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have questions about your mould and deckle. I always like to hear from papermakers with suggestions that might help me make better tools for papermaking.

Regards,
Bob Walp
Chester Creek Press