



WELCOMES YOU TO USING THE *SAPLING FIRE PIT PACKAGE*

The two pieces of your new *Sapling Fire Pit Package* were handmade in a small, family-owned shop in Georgia! The *Sapling Fire Grate* will fit perfectly in your *Sapling* and will aid the air flow in your fire, whether you are sugaring, grilling, smoking, baking or just having a fire pit! Likewise, the *Sapling Fire Poker* will come in handy no matter how you use your *Sapling*.

To help you get the most out of your purchase, the manufacturer has compiled a list of top customer concerns to help our customers know what to expect from their grate. We pass them along to you, here. Enjoy your *Sapling Fire Pit Package*!

- *The paint is scratched, peeling, or uneven.*
 - **The black paint is a temporary coating** intended to minimize rusting during warehousing and shipping of the grate. It is not intended to survive the first few fires – in fact, no coating can withstand direct contact with fire for very long. The paint will burn off, replaced by soot and creosote. This will not affect the longevity of the grate.
- *When I lit my first fire, there was smoke coming from the grate.*
 - **Some smoking at the beginning is normal** and will subside after a few fires. This is just the temporary coating burning off.
- *My grate is slightly smaller than the stated dimensions.*
 - **Some variation in dimensions is unavoidable** as all our grates are made by hand. Therefore, we aim to build them slightly smaller than the stated dimensions in order to ensure a good fit. After all, a 23-1/2-inch grate will fit and work just fine in a 24-inch fireplace, but a 24-1/2-inch grate will not!
- *The inner legs on my grate are slightly shorter than the outer legs.*
 - **This is by design.** As all our grates are made by hand, some variation in dimensions is

unavoidable. If the outer legs are slightly different, the grate will still sit flat. However, if the inner legs are even a fraction of an inch too long, the grate can wobble. Many of our competitors choose to skip the inner legs, even on larger grates that need the extra support, resulting in sagging of the grate over time. Our solution was to make the inner legs slightly shorter than the outer legs. If the grate starts to sag, the inner legs will touch the floor and stop the process. This will significantly increase the life of the grate.

- *My grate is used outdoors, and it is starting to rust.*
 - **Rusting of a steel grate that is used outdoors is inevitable.** This will not significantly affect the longevity of our grates as they are built from thick, heavy duty bar steel and designed to be left exposed to the elements. However, if you would like to minimize rusting for aesthetic reasons, we recommend keeping the grate covered when not in use.

Reminder: Maintaining your *Sapling*

Simple routine maintenance will lengthen the life of your *Sapling*! Clean out some, but not all, of the ashes when the unit has cooled after each use. The best practice is to clean out the ash and/or sand and oil the inside of your barrel with vegetable or olive oil when not in use for extended periods of time, and, unless your *Sapling* can be stored in a garage or barn, you should cover it when not in use. Consider purchasing the *Sapling Grill Cover* for this purpose. If water gets in your barrel, be sure to dump it out, dry it out, and apply another layer of oil to discourage rust.

Expansion and contraction caused by heating, cooling and exposure to the elements may eventually cause some cracking, flaking or thinning in the paint on your *Sapling*. If you notice this, after the barrel has cooled, sand the area with 100 grit sandpaper and repaint with *Sapling Flat Black Paint*, or the equivalent.

Consider purchasing the *Sapling Care Kit*, which includes everything you need for maintaining the *Sapling Evaporator* and all its accessories!