Natural Edge vs Conventional Bowl





The key difference between turning a natural edge bowl and a conventional bowl is that a natural edge bowl incorporates the tree's natural, irregular shape into the rim of the bowl, often leaving the bark intact, while a conventional bowl has a smooth, even rim with a consistent shape, usually with no bark present; essentially, a natural edge bowl embraces the organic contours of the wood, while a conventional bowl aims for a more uniform appearance.

Key points about natural edge bowls:

Are unique and one-of-a-kind, with a rich history and rustic elegance. They feature the wood's natural knots, burls, and imperfections.

The grain pattern of a natural edge bowl is reversed from a conventional bowl. In a natural edge bowl, the pith is at the bottom, creating an oval shape with larger grain ovals moving up the sides

Irregular rim:

The rim of a natural edge bowl will have an undulating shape due to the wood's natural curvature, with high and low points depending on the log section used.

Bark inclusion:

Often, the bark is left on the rim, adding visual interest and a "live edge" aesthetic.

Wood orientation:

Unlike a conventional bowl, the outside of the tree becomes the rim in a natural edge bowl.

Key points about conventional bowls:

Generally turned from dried wood with a predictable or minimal movement, resulting in a controlled shape. Usually, can be turned start to finish at one time.

Even rim: The rim of a conventional bowl is usually smooth and consistent, with a uniform thickness around the entire opening.

In a conventional bowl, the pith is near the top rim, creating an X-like pattern.

No bark: Typically, all bark is removed from a conventional bowl.