



THE MAIN COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1978

General Information, Care Instructions and Terms and Conditions.

Interior Design Features in Zinc, Copper, Brass, Bronze, Pewter

These are all live metals that can react with their environment

Table Tops, Counters, Bar Tops and Splash backs

Traditionally these are supplied in a natural finish which reacts quickly with daily use to develop a characteristic patina and gain that lived in rustic look. Pre-patinated finishes will react also; the patina will change with use. Any acidic liquids like vinegar, sauce, fruit juice will cause a reaction. We normally apply beeswax to the metal at the factory before dispatch, this helps to moderate the rate of patina. In bars and restaurants where the product is continually washed and cleaned the wax will get washed away and patina will change and develop more quickly.

As the market for Industrial & Rustic interior design has developed over the last few years users of live metals are requesting that the finish and look be preserved. In a working environment this is not always practical because of damage to the surface, but for decorative purposes this can be achieved with application of a clear matt lacquer. This must be cared for so as not to damage it as patina will start to develop in those areas. Bars and counters which have heavy usage and are generally not suitable for lacquering. (Splash Backs which are subject to heat and steam are not suitable for lacquering)

Note: Our copper is anti bacterial and most common bacteria cannot live on the surface more than a few hours. Zinc & brass also have a degree of anti bacterial action.

Anti bacterial properties only apply to unlacquered metal.

Care Instructions

Adhesives: Do not use acid based curing adhesives such as with many silicone brands for fixing brass, copper, zinc, bronze or pewter, choose a neutral adhesive such as CT1 or HB40 and always check suitably for your own installation situation. Do not get any adhesive transfer on to the metal face side.

Cleaning: On all finishes wash with warm soapy water only, natural mirror finishes can be refreshed with Brasso or Bio-Mex (non-toxic ingredients), and microfiber cloths. Natural plain finishes can be burnished with Spontex type pads to remove unwanted patina and regain a new appearance. Do not use acidic or alkali based products.

Heat: Do not set down hot plates and pans etc without using a mat or trivet

Liquid: Spillages should be removed as soon as possible, avoid citrus concentrate spills as these will remove the patina on unlacquered finishes.

Direct Sunlight: The metal can become very hot. This can also affect the bond between the metal and substrate. We have a special design for these applications and outdoor use.

Ferrous Metals: These can react in direct contact with live metals, some candle sticks, cast iron pans and suchlike should be protected from direct contact with the metal.

Interior Decorative Features: Decorative surfaces should be re-waxed as required just like any furniture; this will clean and revitalize the metal. (Dark Rich Creamy Beeswax by Flag Paints is a good product). Lacquered finishes can be cleaned with soapy water or furniture polish.

Outdoor: Only use products specifically designed for outdoor use. Natural finishes must be kept waxed to avoid corrosion, do not allow water pools to remain on the surface.

Interior design features in Patina Steel, Black Steel, Blue Grey Steel, Corten Steel, Distressed Steel

These are supplied waxed or lacquered, waxed items should only be revitalized with bees wax, lacquered finishes can be cleaned with a furniture polish suitable for paintwork.

Interior Design Features in Stainless Steel

These can be cleaned using branded stainless steel cleaners available from trade suppliers or from super markets, use as directed.

Polish/Cleaners such as Sheila Shine are also suitable

Incorrect cleaners can cause staining or corrosion. Acid based products must not be used.

Lacquered Products

Lacquer is basically paint so use a mild detergent or suitable spray furniture polish, never use abrasive or harsh chemicals or solvents for cleaning.

For surfaces such as table tops:

To avoid damage to the lacquer always use good quality nonabrasive heat protection mats for hot items, Place mats are recommended for plates, serving dishes or other items that may have sharp edges and Non porous trivets for glasses, cups, wine buckets, bottles etc.

Clean any spills immediately with a soft cloth and soapy water then dry. Microfiber style cloths for example. Re-polish if required.