

care



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Sincerely,

The Elegant Additions Team

Caring for Door and Cabinet Hardware Finishes

Coated Finishes

- Polished, satin, and antique brass.
- Polished, satin, and antique copper.
- Polished, satin, antique, and black nickel.
- Pewter.
- Polished and satin gold.
- Satin black.



Caring for Coated Finishes

- To clean, use a mild non-abrasive liquid detergent such as dishwashing liquid and water. **DO NOT** use harsh chemical cleaners, e.g. window cleaners, abrasive cleaners, or “soft scrub” products.
- Avoid contact with uncured paint, stain, thinners, solvents, glue acids, or chemicals.
- Avoid hitting the hardware with rings, keys, or other sharp instruments to avoid possible damage to the surface.



Maintaining Coated Finishes

- Apply a non-abrasive polymer-based wax like “Faucet Brite” to protect the coating. On exterior hardware, wax should be applied **monthly; twice a month** in coastal areas.

Problem
The coating on the hardware has deteriorated to the point that the finish has eroded.
Solution
Have the hardware professionally refinished. You can find a professional finisher in the telephone directory under “Metal Finishers”.

PVD Finishes

PVD, or Physical Vapor Deposition, is a method of vaporizing and ionizing high purity metals and gases to form a film-like metal compound that coats products. The process takes place under airtight, contaminate free conditions in a sealed vacuum chamber.

Caring for PVD Finishes

- To clean, use a mild non-abrasive liquid detergent such as dishwashing liquid and water. Polish with a soft, dry cloth.
- Avoid contact with uncured paint, thinners, solvents, acids, chemicals and window cleaners.
- Avoid hitting the hardware with rings, keys or other sharp instruments to avoid possible surface damages.

Oil Rubbed Bronze Finishes

The base material that oil rubbed bronze is applied to is brass or bronze. Some manufacturers will apply a clear or tinted coating over their oil rubbed bronze finish to maintain a consistent look throughout the life of the product. Other manufacturers will not use a coating. This allows the finish to change or patina over time. Maintenance varies depending on whether a coating has or has not been applied.

If you want to determine if your oil rubbed bronze is coated, use an ohmmeter or multimeter to check for continuity. Touch the two probes of the meter to the surface of the part being tested. A result of 0 ohms means the part is uncoated and there is no resistance along the surface of the metal. Uncoated oil rubbed bronze finishes can differ greatly in color from one manufacturer to the next. Oxidation will build up in areas not touched by the hand. Areas that receive a lot of use will wear away oxidation, showing patches of the base metal in pleasing copper alloy tones.

Maintaining Coated Oil Rubbed Bronze

- For coated oil rubbed bronze, follow the steps listed on the first page of this manual titled "Caring for Coated Finishes."

Maintaining Uncoated Oil Rubbed Bronze Finishes

Maintenance of uncoated oil-rubbed bronze is mandatory to preserve its finish.

- Treat the hardware as soon as possible with a generous coating of high quality furniture wax such as "Renaissance Wax." Coat the entire metal surface following the instructions listed on the container.

Problem
In hardware, active or working trims wear differently than dummy or non-working trims. A working trim is the trim on the side of a double door that opens and closes. The non-working trim is the trim on the second door that is not regularly opened or closed.
Solution
To simulate a worn appearance, it is possible to remove excess oxidation with an abrasive pad dipped in light oil such "3 in 1" oil. Experiment in an unseen area to get the "feel" and color variations down before starting on the side that shows. Rub lightly and remove excess oil with a clean, soft cotton cloth. Repeat until the desired appearance is achieved. To preserve this appearance, apply a generous coating of high-quality furniture wax.

Bronze and Silicon Bronze Finishes

The oxidation process used in creating different patinas is an accelerated version of what occurs naturally over time. It should be noted that repeat handling of the hardware will lead to the graceful wear of the patina. This wear results in color variations and appearance changes to bronze hardware.

Light Silicon Bronze

No coating or patina is applied to this finish. The color is light honey brown. The finish will naturally oxidize with age to a light reddish-brown with some green on the exterior in high humidity environments.

Medium Silicon Bronze

No coating is applied to this finish. This is a medium reddish-brown patina. The color will darken over time.

Dark Silicon Bronze

The color is a dark brown. It is similar in appearance to oil rubbed bronze finish. Natural oxidation will have some green.

White Bronze Light

This is the natural color of white bronze. The color is similar to bright nickel silver. Natural oxidation will occur and turn darker.

White Bronze Medium

This finish is similar in appearance to antique nickel. Natural oxidation will occur and turn darker with some hint of green.

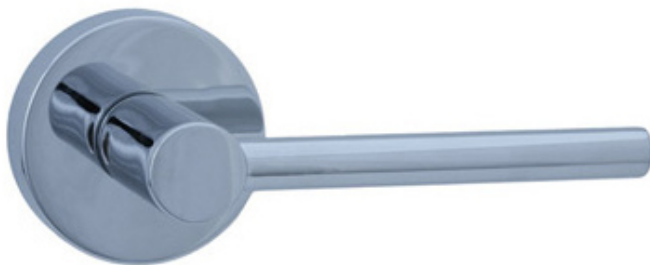
White Bronze Dark

This finish is a dark gray or black. Natural oxidation will occur and turn darker with some green tint.



Maintaining Bronze

- To clean, use a mild liquid detergent and water. Never use ammonia-based cleaning products like window or tile cleaners, harsh chemicals, bleach or abrasive cleaners.
- To retard the natural oxidation, apply a generous coating of a high quality furniture wax.
- Some manufacturers suggest to restore the original patina GENTLY rub with a "Scotch Brite" pad, while others suggest using 0000 steel wool. However, since there are many processes and finishes of oil rubbed bronze, check with the manufacturer before attempting to restore the product. *Use light pressure only!* Then apply a generous coating of a high quality furniture wax.



Chrome Finishes

- Polished chrome.
- Satin Chrome.

Chrome plated finishes are the most durable and require little maintenance other than periodic cleaning.

Caring for Chrome

- To clean, use a mild liquid detergent and water. Never use an abrasive or chemical-based cleaner.

Vintage and Weathered Finishes

- Vintage or weathered copper, brass, and iron.

The process used to create the distressed appearance on solid brass makes each individually crafted item unique. Finishes will vary in color and darkness, changing with time.

Caring for Vintage and Weathered Finishes

- Keep these items dry. Use a soft cloth to wipe off any moisture. Allowing moisture to naturally dry on these finishes will accelerate patina.
- Apply a light coating of a high quality clear furniture wax or "Renaissance Wax" to seal the finish.

Cleaning & Caring for Door Hardware	
Finish	Guidance
Coated Finishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean with a mild non-abrasive liquid detergent and water.• Avoid contact with uncured paint, thinners, acids, solvents, and chemicals.• Maintain by applying a non-abrasive polymer based wax to protect the coating. Apply monthly to exterior hardware. Apply two times a month in coastal areas.• If scratched or finish deteriorates, have the hardware professionally refinished.
PVD Finishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean with mild, non-abrasive liquid detergent and water.• Avoid contact with uncured paint, thinners, acids, solvents, glue, stain and chemicals.
Coated Oil Rubbed Bronze	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean with mild, non-abrasive liquid detergent and water.• Avoid contact with uncured paint, thinners, acids, solvents, glue, stain and chemicals.• Maintain by applying a non-abrasive polymer based wax to protect the

	coating.
Uncoated Oil Rubbed Bronze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After installation, treat the hardware with a generous coating of furniture wax. •
Bronze & Silicon Bronze Bronze & Silicon Bronze (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean with a mild liquid detergent and water. • Never use ammonia-based cleaning products, harsh chemicals, bleach or abrasive cleaners. • To restore patina, <i>gently</i> rub with Scotch Brite or similar pad and then apply a generous coating of high-quality furniture wax.
Chrome Finishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean with a mild liquid detergent. • Never use abrasive or chemical-based cleaners.
Vintage of Weathered Finishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep dry. Use a soft cloth to wipe off moisture. • Apply a light coating of high-quality furniture wax.

Maintaining Door Hardware

Exterior Locks

- Spray the hinges and moving parts of the lock with white lithium grease every six months or more frequently if they do not operate smoothly.
- Spray the keyway of the cylinder lightly with graphite at the first sign of the key sticking. A little graphite goes a long way. Spraying too much may clog the working parts of the cylinder. Wipe away excess, as it may affect adjacent finishes such as the door finish. Graphite is black. To avoid possible stains from drips, use a drop cloth or some other means to protect flooring.
- Lubricate exterior locks by opening the door, pushing the protruding latch and inserting the graphite tube. Spray lightly.



Interior Latches and Locks

- Lightly spray the springs and moving parts of the latch or lock with white lithium grease every six months or more frequently if they do not operate smoothly.
- To lubricate, open door, push in the protruding latch and insert the graphite tube. Spray lightly.

Hinges

- Push the hinge pin up to the first knuckle. DO NOT completely remove it. Coat with a light spray of white lithium grease annually or more frequently if the hinge squeaks.

Maintaining Plumbing Fixture Finishes

Ceramic and Vitreous China

Ceramic and Vitreous China fixtures have a durable glossy or matte color glaze.

- To clean, use a mild liquid non-abrasive detergent such as dishwashing liquid.
- NEVER use an abrasive, harsh chemical cleaner or an abrasive pad because they will remove the gloss or matte finish.
- Avoid using a soft scrub type of cleaner on a regular basis.

Ceramic Weather Glazes

These special ceramic glazes are created from organic materials – no two are exactly alike. Weathered finishes are designed to change over time and vary in appearance creating a “living finish.” Crazeing and darkening is normal, creating part of the product's intrinsic natural beauty.

- To clean, use a mild liquid non-abrasive detergent such as a dishwashing liquid and dry fixture with a clean soft cloth.
- Never use abrasive pads, chlorine or any type of harsh chemicals.

Fire Clay

Fire clay is very durable because of its high firing temperature.

- To clean, use a non-abrasive cleaner and sponge.
- Stubborn stains can be removed with a mild abrasive like “Soft Scrub” or “Bon Ami” on a wet sponge.
- NEVER use abrasive pads, chlorine, or any type of harsh chemicals.



Granite Polymers and Silicate Quartz Polymers

These polymers form a hard non-porous material resistant to chipping, scratching, and staining. (All the materials in this section are non-porous.) Granite polymers and silicate quartz polymers can withstand heat up to 446°F. Placing a pot from the stove directly in the sinks made from these materials will not harm the surface.

- Rinse and wipe the sink dry with a clean soft cloth after each use to eliminate water spots, stubborn stains, or soap film build-up.
- A solution of 50% bleach and water can be used to treat tough or stubborn stains. Let the solution sit in the bottom of the sink for one hour, then scrub and rinse well.
- Do not use abrasive cleaning agents, steel wool or scouring pads.
- NEVER use straight bleach, ammonia or caustic soda solutions.
- NEVER use drain cleaning chemicals when the sink is filled with water.
- To protect the bottom of the sink, purchase a customized sink grid.

Porcelain Enamel

Porcelain enamel is a hard, glass like paint applied in heavy layers and “baked on” under high temperatures. It is used on cast iron, steel and plastic tubs, kitchen sinks, bar sinks and bathroom vanity bowls.

- To clean, use a soft cloth or sponge with a mild non-abrasive cleaner.
- Purchasing a grid for the bottom of the kitchen sink to minimize scratching is highly recommended.
- Allowing coffee or tea to stand in the bottom of the sink could cause stains.
- NEVER use abrasive cleaners or scouring pads. This will dull the gloss and eventually wear to the base material.
- Never use chlorine bleach or any other type of harsh chemical.

Acrylic and Fiberglass/Gelcoat

Acrylic is a thermoplastic product used on the surface of acrylic tubs and shower pans. It generally comes in sheets that are molded and then backed by fiberglass.

- To clean, use a mild, diluted dish washing liquid. (One part soap to three parts water.)
- NEVER use abrasive cleaners or scouring pads.
- NEVER use chlorine, cleaning products in aerosol cans or harsh chemicals.

Terrazzo



A product used to make shower pans that consists of white and tan marble chips cast in white Portland cement.

- Clean stains immediately because they are more difficult to remove the longer they set.
- To remove grease, use a solvent such as carbon tetrachloride.
- Treat stains with bleaches such as household ammonia, hydrogen peroxide or lemon juices which discolor stains.
- Terrazzo does not need protection from wear, it needs protection from absorption and this is achieved through the use of a penetrating sealer.

Cast Iron

- Periodically clean cast iron with a soft abrasive cleaner such as "Soft Scrub".
- For stubborn stains, use a soft nylon scrubber.
- Do NOT use steel wool, metal brushes, scrapers or abrasive sponge pads.

Satin Stainless Steel

- After every use, rinse thoroughly, and then wipe the sink dry with a clean soft cloth. Wiping is the key. Wiping will inhibit water spotting and mineral deposits in severe hard water conditions.
- Stainless steel does not rust. Rust stains on stainless steel result from iron particles from outside sources such as water, cookware, and steel wool pads, etc. that eventually develop into rust spots.
- Do NOT use abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, or steel wool. These will dull the finish.
- Do NOT let household cleaning agents sit in the sink for a long period of time. This may stain the finish.
- To protect the bottom from scratches, purchasing a customized sink grid is highly recommended.
- Most minor scratches can be softened with a "Scotch Brite" soft scour pad, accompanied with a deep cleaning agent such as "Bon Ami" or "Zud." Wet the pad, apply cleansing agent and rub with the grain or finish of the sink. (NOTE: Do NOT just rub in one area. Rub across the entire surface going with the grain). Then rinse thoroughly.

Polished Stainless Steel

- To clean, use a mild liquid detergent and soft cotton cloth or sponge.
- Do NOT use any abrasive scouring pads (this includes “Scotch Brite” or steel wool).
- Do not use chlorine bleach, harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.

Copper Sinks and Tubs

- If the copper sink or tub is protected by a factory applied, baked-on coating then it will only need to be washed with soapy lukewarm water. Do NOT use a polish on it.
- If there is no protective coating, it can be polished or left to patina and create an “old world” look.



Glass Basins

- Radical temperature changes can break glass basins. Therefore do NOT use scalding hot water. If the water is too hot for human touch, then it is too hot to use in the basin.
- Clean with a non-ammonia glass cleaner by spraying on a soft cloth and then wiping the basin. Vinegar and water is a good choice as well.

Soap Dispensers

- The soap dispenser can be filled from the top of the sink. Lift or unscrew the dispenser head and pour the soap down the throat very slowly. Pouring the soap too quickly may cause it to overflow before the bottle is full.
- If the dispenser becomes clogged, remove and soak in hot water until the old soap loosens up.



Water Closet Seats

- Avoid using abrasive cleaners, detergents or cleaning products in aerosol cans.
- Do NOT allow abrasive chemicals to come in contact with the seat as they may damage the finish.
- Use only a mild dishwashing detergent on painted wood seats.



Wood Sinks and Tubs

- After each use, dry the product with a clean soft cloth to eliminate the chance of dirt and lime buildup
- Occasionally use a wax or polish in accord with manufacturer instructions.
- Do not let water pool because it could damage the wood and eventually break the seal.
- Some chemicals used to clean faucets and countertops can be harmful to wood products.

Solid Surface Materials

- Use an ammonia based cleaner for most stains. Remove water marks with a damp cloth and then towel dry.
- Use an abrasive cleaner and a "Scotch Brite" pad to remove more difficult stains.
- Periodically clean the sink by filling it one quarter full with a 50/50 solution of water and bleach. Let it soak for 15 minutes then rinse thoroughly.
- For minor cuts and scratches sand with 180-220 grit fine sandpaper until the cut is gone. Restore the finish with an abrasive cleaner and "Scotch Brite" pad.



Cultured Marble, Granite & Onyx Sinks

- Use a liquid detergent for regular cleaning to remove mineral deposits and soap scum.
- Restore dull surfaces by using a liquid cleaning compound (like for cars), followed by a light application of liquid wax or paste.
- Do NOT use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring pads, scrapers or sandpaper on any part of the surface.

- To remove build-up of hairspray, paint, or difficult stains from the surface, use turpentine, denatured alcohol or paint thinner.
- Because granite and marble are porous, they need to be regularly resealed.
- Certain cleaning agents used for faucets may be harmful to natural stone, granite and marble sinks and countertops.
- Use products such as Masterpiece Marble Care cleaner and sealer to maintain and protect marble sinks.

Cleaning & Caring for Plumbing Fixtures	
Finish	Guidance
Ceramic and Vitreous China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clean, use a mild liquid non-abrasive detergent such as dishwashing liquid. • NEVER use an abrasive, harsh chemical cleaner or an abrasive pad because they will remove the gloss or matte finish. • Avoid using a soft scrub type of cleaner on a regular basis.
Ceramic Weather Glazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They change over time. Crazing is a part of the natural changing process. • To clean, use a mild liquid non-abrasive detergent such as a dishwashing liquid and dry fixture with a clean soft cloth. • Never use abrasive pads, chlorine or any type of harsh chemicals.
Fire Clay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clean, use a non-abrasive cleaner and sponge. • Stubborn stains can be removed with a mild abrasive like "Soft Scrub" or "Bon Ami" on a wet sponge. • NEVER use abrasive pads, chlorine, or any type of harsh chemicals.
Granite Polymers, Silicate Quartz Polymers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinse and wipe the sink dry with a clean soft cloth after each use to eliminate water spots, stubborn stains, or soap film build-up.

Granite Polymers, Silicate Quartz Polymers (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A solution of 50% bleach and water can be used to treat tough or stubborn stains. Let the solution sit in the bottom of the sink for one hour, then scrub and rinse well. • Do not use abrasive cleaning agents, steel wool or scouring pads. • NEVER use straight bleach, ammonia or caustic soda solutions. • NEVER use drain cleaning chemicals when the sink is filled with water. • To protect the bottom of the sink, purchase a customized sink grid.
Porcelain Enamel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clean, use a soft cloth or sponge with a mild non-abrasive cleaner. • Purchasing a grid for the bottom of the kitchen sink to minimize scratching is highly recommended. • Allowing coffee or tea to stand in the bottom of the sink could cause stains. • NEVER use abrasive cleaners or scouring pads. This will dull the gloss and eventually wear to the base material. • Never use chlorine bleach or any other type of harsh chemical.
Acrylic and Fiberglass Gelcoat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clean, use a mild, diluted dish washing liquid. (One part soap to three parts water.) • NEVER use abrasive cleaners or scouring pads. • NEVER use chlorine, cleaning products in aerosol cans or harsh chemicals.
Terrazzo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean stains immediately because they are more difficult to remove the longer they set. • To remove grease, use a solvent such as carbon tetrachloride. • Treat stains with bleaches such as household ammonia, hydrogen peroxide or lemon juices which discolor stains. • Terrazzo does not need protection from wear, it needs protection from absorption and this is achieved through the use of a penetrating sealer.
Cast Iron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically clean cast iron with a soft abrasive cleaner such as "Soft Scrub". • For stubborn stains, use a soft nylon scrubber. • Do NOT use steel wool, metal brushes, scrapers or abrasive sponge pads.
Satin Stainless Steel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After every use, rinse thoroughly, and then wipe the sink dry with a clean soft cloth. Wiping is the key. Wiping will inhibit water spotting and mineral deposits in severe hard water conditions. • Stainless steel does not rust. Rust stains on stainless steel result from iron particles from outside sources such as water, cookware, and steel wool pads, etc. that eventually develop into rust spots. • Do NOT use abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, or steel wool. These will dull the finish. • Do NOT let household cleaning agents sit in the sink for a long period of time. This may stain the finish.

Satin Stainless Steel (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the bottom from scratches, purchasing a customized sink grid is highly recommended. • Most minor scratches can be softened with a "Scotch Brite" soft scour pad, accompanied with a deep cleaning agent such as "Bon Ami" or "Zud." Wet the pad, apply cleansing agent and rub with the grain or finish of the sink. (NOTE: Do NOT just rub in one area. Rub across the entire surface going with the grain). Then rinse thoroughly.
Polished Stainless Steel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clean, use a mild liquid detergent and soft cotton cloth or sponge. • Do NOT use any abrasive scouring pads (this includes "Scotch Brite" or steel wool). • Do not use chlorine bleach, harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
Copper Sinks and Tubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the copper sink or tub is protected by a factory applied, baked-on coating then it will only need to be washed with soapy lukewarm water. Do NOT use a polish on it. • If there is no protective coating, it can be polished or left to patina and create an "old world" look.
Glass Basins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radical temperature changes can break glass basins. Therefore do NOT use scalding hot water. If the water is too hot for human touch, then it is too hot to use in the basin. • Clean with a non-ammonia glass cleaner by spraying on a soft cloth and then wiping the basin. Vinegar and water is a good choice as well.
Soap Dispensers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the dispenser becomes clogged, remove and soak in hot water until the old soap loosens up.
Water Closet Seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid using abrasive cleaners, detergents or cleaning products in aerosol cans. • Do NOT allow abrasive chemicals to come in contact with the seat as they may damage the finish. • Use only a mild dishwashing detergent on painted wood seats.
Solid Surfacing Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an ammonia based cleaner for most stains. Remove water marks with a damp cloth and then towel dry. • Use an abrasive cleaner and a "Scotch Brite" pad to remove more difficult stains. • Periodically clean the sink by filling it one quarter full with a 50/50 solution of water and bleach. Let it soak for 15 minutes then rinse thoroughly. • For minor cuts and scratches sand with 180-220 grit fine sandpaper until the cut is gone. Restore the finish with an abrasive cleaner and "Scotch Brite" pad.
Cultured Marble, Granite and Onyx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a liquid detergent for regular cleaning to remove mineral deposits and soap scum. • Restore dull surfaces by using a liquid cleaning compound (like for cars), followed by a light application of liquid wax or paste. • Do NOT use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring pads,

Cultured Marble, Granite and Onyx (cont.)	<p>scrapers or sandpaper on any part of the surface.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To remove build-up of hairspray, paint, or difficult stains from the surface, use turpentine, denatured alcohol or paint thinner. • Because granite and marble are porous, they need to be regularly resealed. • Certain cleaning agents used for faucets may be harmful to natural stone, granite and marble sinks and countertops. • Use products such as Masterpiece Marble Care cleaner and sealer to maintain and protect marble sinks.
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Maintaining Plumbing Metallic Finishes

Coated Finishes

- Polished brass, copper, bronze, nickel, silver, or gold.
- Satin brass, copper, bronze, nickel, silver, or gold.
- Antique brass, copper, bronze, nickel, or silver.
- Pewter.
- Black nickel.
- Satin black.
- Powder coated colors.

Caring for Coated Finishes

- To prevent water spots, wipe off water with a clean, soft, damp cloth after each use.
- NEVER use an abrasive cleaning product (cleanser or "Soft Scrub"), ammonia-based cleaning products (window or tile cleaners), harsh chemicals or bleach.
- Wax monthly with a faucet wax.

Uncoated Finishes

Uncoated brass, copper, bronze, nickel or silver.

- The finish will oxidize. To restore to a bright polished look, polish with a mild metal polish such as "Flitz."
- Use a faucet wax after polishing to prolong the polished appearance and delay oxidation.
- Use fine steel wool or "Scotch Brite" to restore satin finishes.
- Do not use abrasive cleaning products (cleanser or "Soft Scrub") because they can scratch the surface.



Chrome or PVD Finishes

These are the most durable of all finishes, however proper care is still needed.

- Wipe off water after each use with a clean, soft cloth to prevent water spots.
- A mild dishwashing liquid detergent can be used to clean stubborn water spots or pollutants.
- NEVER use scouring pads or abrasive cleaners. They will scratch the surface.

Vintage, Weathered, and Living Finishes

- Uncoated oil rubbed bronze.
- Verde green
- Terra cotta.
- Weathered copper, and weathered brass.

The process used to create the distressed appearance on solid brass makes each individually crafted item unique. Finishes will vary in color and darkness, changing with time.

- To clean, use a mild liquid detergent and soft cloth.
- Apply a "Renaissance Wax" to uncoated oil rubbed bronze to darken the bronze and reduce wear or lighten in appearance.
- It is tough to *completely* remove hard water spots. We recommend 100% carnauba wax to clean and protect our finishes.
- Do NOT use metal polishes, bleach, vinegar, WD-40, solvents or any other chemical or abrasive cleansing agents.

Gold Faucets

Treat 24K gold-plated faucets as you would treat any piece of fine jewelry.

- Gold-plated faucets scratch easily. To help prevent scratching, clean regularly with warm water and dry with a chamois.
- Gold can become discolored from perfumes contained in soaps and lotions. To help prevent this problem, lightly clean with a **soft** brush, such as a sterling silver cleaning brush to remove dirt and lotion buildup from hard to clean areas, then rinse with warm water and dry with a chamois.
- Avoid using ammoniated or abrasive cleaners.





Gold Sinks

Gold sinks require delicate cleaning and maintenance.

- Use a mild soap, such as Ivory Liquid and dry with a soft cloth or chamois.
- Avoid using polishes because they can scratch the plating.
- Do not scrub the sink. Gold is soft and can easily scratch.
- Avoid using ammoniated or abrasive cleaners.
- A plated finish on gold plated brass sinks can wear away with time.

Maintaining Plumbing Fixture Finishes

Ceramic Disc Cartridges

Some faucet manufacturers offer a Limited Lifetime Warranty on their ceramic disc cartridges. This warranty provides for a free replacement cartridge **but does not cover the labor cost.**

- To extend the life of the cartridge, turn on the hot and cold sides of faucets that are not frequently used. Ten seconds is long enough to “wet” the valve. This can be done weekly.
- Do NOT attempt to stop dripping by applying extreme force on the handle.



Washerless (Non-Ceramic Disc) Valves

These valves have a stainless steel ball.

- If the valve drips, replace the stainless steel ball and springs. Replacement kits are available at home centers.
- Do NOT attempt to stop any dripping by applying extreme force on the handle.

Supply Stops

Supply stops are the small valves under every sink and behind every toilet. These valves are usually kept in an “open” position. Because they are not used often, the washers can become brittle. As a result when they are turned off (usually to make repairs) they will drip and small black specks may flow from the faucet. Sometimes these can clog the spout aerator.

- To prevent this, turn the stops OFF and ON every few months. If this task is not performed and the aerator becomes clogged, you will probably have your reason.



Spout Aerators

- Close the drain when cleaning the spout aerator to avoid losing any parts. Unscrew the aerator from the spout. Wearing rubber gloves will help to unscrew aerators that may be stuck in place.
- Gently scrub the inside part with an old toothbrush to loosen any foreign materials.
- Rinse with water and screw the aerator back into the spout.
- Turn the water on slowly to test for leaks. If it leaks, tighten it up until it stops leaking. Wearing rubber gloves will allow you to tighten the aerator more securely.
- Be careful not to scratch or bend the aerator with pliers.

Pressure Balanced Shower Valves and Tub/Shower Valves

It is normal for a minimal amount of water that remains in the pipes to drip from the shower head after shutting off the valve – dripping is likely to last as long as three minutes to enable water in the pipes to drain. If the dripping continues for longer than three minutes, one of two problems has likely occurred: 1) mechanical stop is not set properly causing the cartridge to remain partially open, or 2) the cartridge is bad and needs replacing.

- Do not attempt to stop dripping by applying extreme force to the handle.
- Some pressure balanced valves have internal filters to protect the cartridge. If these filters become clogged, water flow will decrease. The filters can be easily cleaned. Refer to installation instructions or call a plumber.
- In hard water locations, remove the pressure balancing cartridge and soak it in white vinegar to remove mineral deposits.
- A small stream of water may come from the tub spout of some pressure balanced valves when set to the shower head. This is normal and cannot be avoided.

Thermostatic Valves

Occasional service to the valves is necessary to keep thermostats in optimum operating condition. All thermostatic valves are equipped with integral filters to protect the intricate cartridge from debris and sediment. Different manufacturers place their filters in different locations. Check with the manufacturer to determine the exact location.

- Service dirt filter screens bi-annually – more frequently in areas with poor water quality or high sediment.
- To remove mineral deposits soak the screens in white vinegar for several hours, flush thoroughly, then reinstall.
- Use a soft toothbrush to remove larger fragments from screens.
- Lubricate the cartridge 'O' rings with heat resistant silicone grease every time they are removed, or at least every five years.
- Turn the valve and rotate the temperature dial through the full range from hot to cold at least monthly.



Air Massage Baths

- Noise reduction: The number of jets that provide for an overall body massage is a distinguishing feature of air baths. The noise customers hear when using their air baths comes from the extreme action of the water in the bath **and not the motor**. By using a small amount of foaming bath powder you can reduce the amount of noise produced. The foam acts as an insulator and helps to delay the loss of water temperature.

Air Massage Baths (cont.)

- Water and Air Temperature: The tub is equipped with an air-heating element designed to slow down the cooling of the bath water. The air heater does not heat the water per se. It is normal to feel cool air coming from the jets when you sit next to them due to convection. This problem can be avoided by turning the bath on five minutes before filling it with water so that the motor is warm when entering the bath.
- Maintenance: When the tub is used regularly and correctly (the purge cycle is always used), the bath needs only quarterly maintenance. However, if the system is used sporadically, or the purge cycle is neglected, monthly maintenance is required.
- To clean the tub, follow these instructions:
 - Close the drain.
 - Pour 1 quart of vinegar into the bath.
 - Fill the bath with very hot water to about 4" above the jets. Leave the water and vinegar to soak for 2-4 hours.
 - After the soak, turn the motor on for 15 seconds, the off for 15 seconds, repeating this action 6-8 times.
 - Empty the bath and refill with clean water. Repeat the turn off-on procedure 2-3 times.
 - Drain the bath.



Jetted Tubs

- Clean the circulation system with whirlpool tub cleaners every 2-3 weeks. There are several whirlpool tub cleaners on the market.
- If perchance a cleaner is not available, fill the tub with warm water, add 1 teaspoon of mild dishwashing liquid plus ½ cup of bleach. Run the whirlpool system for 5 minutes. Drain and fill with cold water. Run the system again for 5 minutes. Drain the tub.



Water Closets

- To clean the bowl, use a “toilet bowl cleaner” and a toilet bowl brush.
- To stop running water, check to assure the flapper is closed.
- If the flapper looks like it is closed, but the water is still running, follow these steps:
 - Turn off the water at the supply stop, usually located on the left side of the water closet – near the base board.
 - Remove the tank lid.
 - Clean the flapper with a wet cotton cloth or paper towel.
 - Turn the water on at the supply stop.
 - Wait for the tank to fill with water and shuts off.
 - Flush the water closet. Watch tank fill and make sure it shuts off.
 - Replace tank lid.

Garbage Disposals

- Always run cold water when grinding to move the waste down the drain lines. Fats and grease congeal and harden in cold water and can be flushed through the system. Hot water should not be used because it can dissolve fats and grease that may then accumulate in the drain line.
- Almost all biodegradable food waste can be fed into disposals. However, they should not be used to grind clam or oyster shells, corn husks, artichoke leaves or other material with high fiber content. Under no circumstances should glass, plastic or metal non-food materials be put down disposer. This includes bottle caps, tin covers or aluminum foil.
- Grind small bones and egg shells actually helps clean the disposer by scraping away stubborn deposits, citric acid, and pulp. Grinding a little ice is another way to clean deposits and eliminate odors. For the most part, disposals are self-cleaning.



Point-of-Use Water Filter Systems

The most common point-of-use water filtration system sold in decorative showrooms is a separate faucet mounted on the sink and a cartridge filter placed in the cabinet below. The lifespan of the cartridge is determined by the amount of minerals and chemicals in the water and usage – there is no indicator that reveals when the cartridge should be replaced. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for regular replacement. It should be noted that not changing a water filter regularly can cause more problems than having the filter eliminated.

Steam Generators

If you decide to purchase a steam generator, it is highly advised that you purchase an auto drain device at this time as well. The device drains water completely out of the unit at the conclusion of the steam bath. It also removes debris and sediment that can cause the elements to burn out because of hard water. Auto drain devices are often included as standard equipment, but other times they need to be added at an additional cost. The auto drain device is particularly applicable for areas with hard water.

Standard Terminology

- Graphite Spray – a black carbon powder used to lubricate door lock keyways and hinges.
- Living Finish – a finish that changes in appearance with time and usage.
- Oxidation – chemical changes brought about by exposure to oxygen.
- Patina – refers to the change in an object's surface that may occur naturally (due to long exposure to weather) or artificially (due to exposure to acid).
- PVD Finish – Physical Vapor Deposition – a clear coat finish that is applied over metal finishes that is as hard and durable as chrome.
- White Lithium Grease – a heavy-duty lubricant spray designed for all metal-to-metal applications. It helps prevent rust, inhibits corrosion and resists heat and moisture. It sprays on as a liquid, penetrates tiny crevices, and then sets up as a lubricating grease that works continuously.
- Uncoated Finishes – finishes that do NOT utilize a clear coat and allow the natural beauty of the metal to show through.