

CARE AND PATINA

GENERAL INFORMATION

When moving, installing, or handling any of our metal, glass, or mirrored products, always use nitrile or lint-free gloves. This will prevent fingerprint marks and finish damage caused by the oils on skin. Please ensure any cloths used while servicing fixtures are clean and dry.

All bulb details can be found on the product page for the specific fixture you are servicing. The installation instructions can be useful for changing bulbs in more complex fixtures.

Use extreme caution when spraying chemicals or cleaning agents around all fixtures. This caution is particularly applicable to exterior fixtures that are exposed to power washing, which can use harsh chemicals. Such chemicals can significantly accelerate a fixture's normal aging process. Exterior fixtures should be well covered (plastic cover for instance) during chemical or power wash applications.

For exterior fixtures, particularly in high salt environments, we recommend cleaning and greasing of the hinge pins on the door of the fixture every few months. Remove door and hinge pins and wipe with a dry, clean cloth. Apply a small amount of clear grease to the pins and coat thoroughly. Reinstall pins and wipe off any excess grease. Fixture bodies can be cleaned with a damp rag to wash away sediment and/or mineral deposits to minimize inconsistent patination over time.

GLASS CARE

CLEAR, ETCHED, OPAL, OR COLORED GLASS.

We recommend applying a dye-free, non-ammonia based glass cleaner to a clean cloth to wipe down Clear, Etched, Opal, or Colored glass. DO NOT spray glass cleaner directly on the glass or fixture as it could affect the metal finish.

MIRRORED (MODERN, TRANSLUCENT ANTIQUE, ANTIQUE) GLASS.

These varieties of glass should only be dusted with a dry, lint-free cloth or clean duster. DO NOT use any cleaning chemical or glass cleaner on Modern Mirror, Translucent Antique Mirror, or Antique Mirror. Any cleaning chemical applied to these types of glass will cause finish damage to the mirroring. Translucent Antique Mirror and Antique Mirror are both handapplied finishes and may naturally darken over time.

All Antique Mirror finishes are created in-house by hand and the irregularity in these finishes is a natural result. Our blown and slumped glass will also exhibit occasional irregularities and bubbles. These markings of the handcrafted process are considered intrinsic to the design.

METAL CARE

FOUND BRASS. Found Brass is a highly variable raw metal finish that will continually patina. Any textured marking, discoloration, or applied patination initially observed is characteristic of the finish and intended to develop over time. This finish may present tonal variations among individual components within the fixture. We do not recommend using any brass polishing or cleaning compounds on our Found Brass, as this will cause uncharacteristic staining. For general dusting or cleaning, we recommend using a dry, clean cloth or duster.

POLISHED FINISHES. Polished finishes include Polished Brass Unlacquered, Tarnished Brass, Polished Nickel, and Heirloom. These finishes are considered "living" and will patina over time. A quality brass or silver polishing compound can be used occasionally to reverse the patina of Polished Brass Unlacquered and Polished Nickel finishes. We recommend following the polish manufacturer's instructions, keeping in mind that gentle polishing should always follow the grain of the metal. Tarnished Brass and Heirloom display intentional patinated characteristics that are susceptible to removal when chemical cleaning or polishing compounds are used. Polishing Heirloom will remove the original oxidized characteristics and look more like Polished Nickel, and polishing Tarnished Brass will result in an unrefined example of Polished Brass. Attempts to modify Tarnished Brass or Heirloom will result in irreversible damage to those finishes.

HEWN BRASS (UNLACQUERED). Hewn Brass Unlacquered is a raw metal finish that will gradually develop a darkened patina. To remove any fingerprint marks, discolorations, or to remove the natural patina developed over time, the metal surface can be buffed with an abrasive pad equivalent to steel wool grade 1. Use abrasive pad to apply light pressure in a linear motion while following the grain of the finish to slowly return to raw metal. We do not recommend using any brass polishing or cleaning compounds on our Hewn Brass Unlacquered, as this can cause irregular staining. For general dusting or cleaning, we recommend using a dry, clean cloth or duster.

HEWN AND POLISHED BRASS (LACQUERED). Hewn and Polished Brass Lacquered are lacquered finishes and will patina at a slower rate than the Unlacquered versions of each finish. A quality brass or silver polishing compound is NOT recommended for either finish, which should be cared for with a dry lint-free cloth that will cause minimal abrasion to the lacquer.

OXIDIZED FINISHES. Many of our finish options are oxidized finishes, which include Antique Brass, Bronze, Burnished Brass, Darkened Copper, Blackened Copper, Zinc, and Vintage. Over time, these finishes will deepen or develop patina. DO NOT use any chemical cleaner, as it risks substantial damage to the finish. We recommend cleaning these fixtures with a clean, dry cloth or duster.

CARE AND PATINA

PAINT. Paint finishes should only be cleaned with a dry, clean cloth or duster. Painted finishes include all of our Gilt finish variations, and client selected paint colors. Any paint finish will be sensitive to chipping or scratching, so please use caution when dusting or cleaning fixtures.

POWDER COAT. Powder coated fixtures are more durable than paint (think of an enamel-like surface). We recommend using a dry, clean cloth or duster when possible. If necessary, a damp cloth can be used to remove debris from the surface of the finish. This can be especially helpful in extending the life of the finish when used in exterior applications.

RAW COPPER. Raw Copper is a raw metal finish that will develop a darkened patina quickly, and over time verdigris variations will appear. We do not recommend cleaning Raw Copper regularly. If dusting is required, we recommend a dry, lint free cloth. DO NOT use any chemical cleaner, as it risks substantial damage to the patinated finish.

WEATHERING & PATINA

Fixtures ordered in raw, polished, or oxidized finishes ("living" finishes) will patina over time. This means that the surface of the metal will develop colorations and characteristics that occur naturally after exposure to environmental elements. Patina is an aesthetic desired by the vast majority of our clients. This is the natural process of the metal aging and does not affect the structural integrity of the fixture.

Any exterior installations (particularly coastal installations) are prone to patina more quickly as a result of exposure to salt water and harsh environmental elements. Although this is normal and expected, it can sometimes look similar to rust (Brass and Copper do not rust). We use heirloom quality Brass and Copper that is sourced from the oldest Copper manufacturer in the US. Rest assured, our fixtures are built to withstand normal aging over generations.

Copper is a traditional metal for maritime applications and is particularly useful for damp and coastal environments. When Copper is exposed to atmospheric elements, it will begin to change and develop thin films consisting of sulfide and sulfate. These films can result in an array of colors including pinks, oranges, blues, and purples. Please note that films produced during the Copper oxidation process can run off during rain and may stain sidewalks or pathways.