

INTRODUCTION

Routine regular maintenance prevents dirt and grime deposits from building up on the surface of FHC Architectural Metal Products. If left neglected, chemicals in the air will discolor and tarnish any decorative metal finish.

To promote the aesthetic longevity of FHC Architectural Metal Products, a regimented cleaning program should be put in place. Simply wipe the surfaces down on a weekly basis using a mild liquid soap and warm water, and a rinse with clean fresh water. Dry all surfaces completely with a clean, dry microfiber cloth FHC Item No. **MFC16** or lint free wipes FHC Item No. **FHC3255**. **DO NOT** let water dry by air, as this will cause water spotting on the metal's surface.



WARNING: Do not use any type of abrasive cleaners or abrasive clothes on Polished Architectural Metal Products. Always wear eye protection and rubber gloves when using cleaning soaps and detergents.

POLISHED STAINLESS STEEL

Polished Stainless Steel finishes should be cleaned with a foam spray cleaner, such as FHC Glass Cleaner Item No. **GW19** and wiped with clean, dry cloth such as FHC Item No. **FHC3255** lint-free wipes or FHC Item No. **MFC16** microfiber cloths.



Cleaners can be used as often as necessary. DO NOT use circular motion when polishing. Liquid solutions may cloud or scratch polished stainless steel finishes.

SATIN STAINLESS STEEL (BRUSHED)

Satin stainless steel finishes should be cleaned like polished stainless steel, with the motions in the same direction as the grain texture. For periodic maintenance, satin stainless steel can be rubbed with an abrasive pad, such as FHC Fine Hand Pad Item No. **FHCFP1**. The finish should always be rubbed in the same direction as the grain texture.

BRASS

Brass is an alloy of copper/zinc, and it tends to oxidize (tarnish) quickly when exposed to air. The biggest challenge to the maintenance of brass, is the removal and inhibition of tarnish. Once tarnish is removed, a chemical barrier should be created between the bare metal and the air to inhibit the process from re-occurring.

TARNISHED BRASS

Unlacquered brass tarnishes when exposed to air. A weekly wiping with a little diluted liquid ammonia on a soft cloth will help keep unlacquered brass shiny. Use a conventional cleaner/polish such as Brasso® (available in grocery or hardware stores) to coat the raw metal with a thin film of oil to help inhibit future tarnishing. The polish should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended instructions for safety and use. **CAUTION:** Wrong to assume, "the more polish, the more protection". More polish creates a smudging problem since fingerprints "dissolve" the solvency of the metal polish. Additionally, too much polish may discolor the surface. Only a trace amount creating a thin film should be applied. **NOTE:** Never use circular motions when polishing. Always rub in the same direction as the grain texture.



HINT: Unlacquered Brass will look brighter and require less polishing if rubbed with a cloth moistened with Olive Oil after each polishing. Olive oil retards tarnish.

LACQUERED or **COATED BRASS** should be cleaned periodically by wiping with a mild soap and filtered water solution, then rinsed with clean water and dried with a clean microfiber cloth FHC Item No. **MFC16**. **NOTE:** No Brass cleaners/ polish, oil, ammonia, or abrasive cleaners should ever be used on lacquered/coated brass alloys. **LACQUERED** or **COATED BRASS** finishes once scratched or nicked, are immediately susceptible to oxidation. Oxidation will start to appear as black spots. Repair requires the stripping of the lacquer from the entire part, then the lacquer must be re-applied.

On **ANTIQUÉ BRASS**, test the cleaning product to be sure of obtaining the desired effect. Some methods not only clean tarnish but also remove the coloring of age that is desirable on some items.

SATIN BRASS alloy finishes should be cleaned by rubbing with an abrasive pad FHC Item No. **FHCFP1**. The finish should always be rubbed in the same direction as the grain texture. **WARNING:** This technique is only for unlacquered satin brass finishes.

OIL RUBBED BRONZE should be cleaned routinely by wiping with liquid lemon oil on a microfiber cloth FHC Item No. **MFC16**. Apply lemon oil similar to type used on wood. The lemon oil should be left to air dry naturally, and not wiped dry.

ANODIZED ALUMINUM

Anodized aluminum should be cleaned using a mild liquid soap and warm water, and a rinse with clean fresh water.

CAUTION: To avoid damaging the anodic coating, never use acid or alkaline cleaners. After cleaning, all surfaces need to be wiped completely dry with a clean microfiber cloth FHC Item No. **MFC16** or lint-free wipes FHC Item No. **FHC3255** to prevent water spotting.



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