



**WATSON & GABB**

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

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## GENERAL INFORMATION & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

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THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS A GUIDE ONLY – IF YOU ARE NOT SURE PLEASE USE A PROFESSIONAL RESTORATION SERVICE.

### ZINC, COPPER, BRASS, BRONZE, PEWTER

*These are all live metals that can react with their environment.*

### TABLE TOPS, COUNTERS, BAR TOPS & 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 Renaissance wax to the metal at the factory before dispatch, this helps to moderate the rate of patina. In environments 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 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. (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 un-lacquered metal.

## CLEANING

On all finishes wash with warm soapy water only and microfibre 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 un-lacquered finishes.

## DIRECT SUNLIGHT

The metal can become very hot. This can also affect the bond between the metal and substrate.

## 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. (Renaissance wax is preferred due to its PH neutral characteristics) Lacquered finishes can be cleaned with soapy water or furniture polish.

Interior design features in Patina surfaces, Black Steel, Corten Steel, Distressed Metal. These are supplied waxed or lacquered, waxed items should only be revitalized with renaissance wax to ensure the surface of the applied patina is protected, lacquered finishes can be cleaned with a furniture polish suitable for paintwork.

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 non-abrasive 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. Microfibre style cloths for example. Re-polish if required.