



Metal Cleaning Directions

LACQUER CLEANING:

Lacquer is a clear protective coating that provides a barrier between the metal and the oil on fingers, stains, or minor scratches. Bronze, copper, or stainless steel with a clear lacquer finish should require minimal cleaning and maintenance. Here are cleaning guidelines for you and the cleaning crews to follow:

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Microfiber towels
- Dawn or a similar, very mild detergent
- 2 buckets

CLEANING STEPS:

- Use 3-5 drops of Dawn cleaning detergent in a half-gallon bucket of water.
- Dampen a microfiber towel from the first bucket of water and Dawn cleaner.
- With a damp (not dripping wet) microfiber towel, wipe the surface clean.
- Fill a second clean bucket with water.
- Dampen a second microfiber cloth.
- With the second damp microfiber cloth, wipe clean.
- Dry all excess moisture from the metal with a clean, dry microfiber towel.

NEVER USE ON LACQUERED METAL:

- Chemicals
- Stainless steel spray cleaner
- Windex
- Ammonia or peroxide-based products
- Any abrasive cleaners
- Abrasive pads or cloth

STAINLESS STEEL CLEANING:

Below are cleaning tips for stainless steel surfaces without lacquer:

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Microfiber towels
- Stainless steel cleaner such as Sheila Shine

CLEANING STEPS

- Don't spray cleaner directly onto the metal.
- Lightly spray stainless steel cleaner such as Sheila Shine onto a microfiber cloth.
- Apply on the metal surface by wiping in the direction of the grain.
- Lightly buff off with a second clean microfiber to make sure that the cleaner is not running.

CLEANING METAL WITH GRAIN:

- If you look closely, you will see a uniform pattern of lines or striations much like you see in a plank of wood.
- When cleaning, your back and forth wiping should "go with the grain" and match the motion of those grain lines.

WAXING OR MOPPING FLOORS NEAR METAL SURFACES:

- Wipe any materials, chemicals, or moisture that is splashed onto the metal from the work on the floors.
- Wax and dirty mop water is very damaging if left to dry on metal, as well as wood bases or stone.



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The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Maintaining Metal Surfaces

Well maintained bronze, stainless steel, and other metals create a great first impression that adds value to every property. Here is what your cleaning staff needs to know about products and maintenance options to keep your metal looking its best!

WINDEX

- **GOOD:** This inexpensive product is a favorite for many and can do a good job on mirror-finish stainless steel when used with a soft cotton cloth, not paper towels as they will scratch the surface.
- **BAD:** Do NOT use on satin-finish metal, bronze, or any lacquered surface. Windex contains ammonia which is corrosive to many types of metal.
- **UGLY:** Windex will break down lacquer and discolor metal.

ABRASIVE CLEANERS OR PADS

- **GOOD:** There is NOTHING good about ABRASIVES on metal.
- **BAD:** Abrasives will damage the finish and can cause scratching.
- **UGLY:** It will cost you money to refinish unnecessarily.

STAINLESS STEEL CLEANER

- **GOOD:** Can work on stainless steel if applied with a microfiber cloth wiped in the direction of the metal's grain.
- **BAD:** May cause build up or be runny.
- **UGLY:** Some aerosol cleaners are not oil-based and will remove the oil barrier leaving the metal surface very streaky.

BRASSO

- **GOOD:** May work on unlacquered mirror-finish bronze for the short term (not recommended).
- **BAD:** If used, it only works for a short period and therefore needs to be applied daily. Brasso also contains ammonia.
- **UGLY:** Leaves residue, breaks down lacquer, and causes discoloration.

PROFESSIONAL REFINISHING & MAINTENANCE

- **GOOD:** A refinish service is the professional restoration of the finish of the metal by cleaning and removing scratches that went beyond any protective lacquer, and realigning the grain giving a fresh appearance that equates to a property's better impression. A maintenance service ensures the metal is properly cleaned and waxed to maintain its appearance between refinishing services. It also delays the need for refinishing.
- **BAD:** It is more expensive than cleaning products, but less expensive than replacing your metal.
- **UGLY:** Don't let a sales person tell you every metal surface should be refinished annually. Surfaces that are constantly touched like handles, may need more frequent refinishing, but other surfaces that aren't touched can last up to two years or more between refinishes. Also beware of vendors who make promises but don't complete maintenance visits to hasten expensive refinishing. A good vendor is a partner who knows the value of proper maintenance.