



METAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Introduction

Congratulations on your selection of the CRL architectural entrance System.

Should you have any question about this system or any other CRL products, please contact us at (800) 421-6144 or visit our website at www.crlaurence.com.

Care and Cleaning

Stainless Steel

Mirror and Satin polished Stainless Steel are one of the most durable and easiest finishes to maintain.

Mirror Polished Stainless Steel:

Mirror polished stainless steel finishes should be cleaned with a foam spray cleaner, such as:

CRL Sprayway - Stainless Steel Polish & Cleaner SW841 cleans, polishes and protects stainless steel without hard rubbing and polishing. Resists finger prints, grease and water splatter. Helps preserve the factory finish

And wiped with a clean, dry cloth, such as:

CRL Lint Free Shop Wipes 1550 are made with four plies of strong, white paper and reinforced in both directions with an extra ply of tough nylon. These rugged towels will stand up to the most demanding shop work. 1550 wipes can absorb many times their weight in liquids. CRL Glass Wipes are virtually lint-free.

Such foam cleaners can be used as often as necessary.

Liquid solutions may cloud or scratch polished stainless steel finishes.

For periodic maintenance, mirror stainless can be polished with

CRL Autosol® Shine 1188AS cleans, restores and polishes all metal surfaces and will protect against corrosion and tarnishing. Mild abrasives help to remove built-up tarnish, oxidation and even rust, leaving behind a protective coating, which helps to condition the metal and protect against corrosion while providing a longer lasting shine

Do not use circular motions when polishing.



Satin Polished Stainless Steel (Brushed):

Satin polished stainless steel finishes should be cleaned like Mirror 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

[Scotch-Brite General Purpose Hand Pad 7447 by 3M](#), or
[Scotch-Brite Ultra Fine Hand Pad 7448 by 3M](#), or
[Scotch-Brite General Purpose Scrubbing Pad 9650 by 3M](#).

The finish should always be rubbed in the same direction as the grain texture.

BRASS / BRONZE

Polished and Satin finish applied to brass or bronze must be routinely maintained to retain the desired appearance. The darkening or black spotting on the brass or bronze surface is simply oxidation taking place. If left untreated brass and bronze will eventually turn entirely, but unevenly, dark. This dark oxidized state is the natural color of all copper alloys.

Frequency of the treatment of brass and bronze finishes depends on use and abuse, location, weather conditions, or exposure to marine air.

CRL do not recommend any protective coating over the brass or bronze finish. These coatings provide only temporarily relieve from the eventual oxidation that will occur on any brass or bronze finish.

Lacquer finishes are susceptible to scratching and abrasion. Once the surface of the lacquer has been damaged, oxidation will take place. Oxidation of the brass or bronze will appear as black spots. Scratches in the lacquer coating cannot just be covered up or sprayed over. Repair requires the stripping of the lacquer from the entire part using solvents. Then the lacquer must be re-applied.

Brass and bronze are beautiful metals but require continual maintenance to retain its luster.

Mirror Polished Brass or Bronze

Mirror polished copper alloys should be periodically cleaned, when it begins to tarnish, with a brass polishing cream that uses low-level abrasives (such as

[CRL Autosol® Shine 1188AS](#) cleans, restores and polishes all metal surfaces and will protect against corrosion and tarnishing. Mild abrasives help to remove built-up tarnish, oxidation and even rust, leaving behind a protective coating, which helps to condition the metal and protect against corrosion while providing a longer lasting shine

or a similar product). The liquid or cream polish should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended instructions for safety and use. **Do not** use circular motions when polishing.



Satin Polished Brass or Bronze:

Satin polished copper alloy finishes should be cleaned by rubbing with an abrasive pad such as

- Scotch-Brite General Purpose Hand Pad 7447 by 3M, or
- Scotch-Brite Ultra Fine Hand Pad 7448 by 3M, or
- Scotch-Brite General Purpose Scrubbing Pad 9650 by 3M

The finish should always be rubbed in the same direction as the grain texture.

Satin, Oxidized and Oil Rubbed Bronze:

Regularity is the key to a successful maintenance program. A schedule should be arranged providing periodic cleaning with regular inspections in the interim. The schedule should differentiate between interior and exterior surfaces and those surfaces subject to handling, scuffing and abrasion. When a regular maintenance program is followed, most installations can be maintained by oiling or waxing.

Surfaces pre-finished or naturally weathered to the statuary bronze shades should be maintained by periodic oiling with Lemon Oil, Lemon Grass Oil or high-grade paraffin oil.

Oil and wax coatings look best when applied with a well-impregnated, clean soft cloth followed by rubbing with a second, clean soft cloth to remove excess oil or wax.

Frequency of oiling or waxing is as important as the oil or wax used. Newly installed metal should be oiled weekly for the first month in order to build up a protective film. Metals subject to heavy traffic should be oiled or waxed at one to two-week intervals. Where traffic is moderate to light, monthly treatment may suffice. In non-traffic areas, quarterly or semiannual applications are feasible.

Frequency could also be determined when the metal finish appears dull and dry.

The frequency of oiling will decrease over time as layers of oil build up to create a protective surface and result in what is known as oil rubbed bronze

Considering a typical building entrance, door handles, push plates or bars, and kick plates as well as the door stiles and rails, would normally be exposed to heavy traffic.

The doorframe and adjacent window wall framing usually receive less handling and would be considered a moderate to light traffic area. Transoms, canopies and similar metal elements normally out of reach would be classed as non-traffic areas.

We recommend that a professional maintenance company be hired to do any of the field restoration, (like [StuardDean Co., Inc. www.stuarddean.com](http://www.stuarddean.com)).



Finishes Coated with Clear Baked Enamel or Clear Enamel or Clear Lacquer:

Finishes coated with a clear baked enamel, clear enamel or clear lacquer coating can be cleaned periodically by gently wiping with a mild soap and water solution, rinsed with clean water and wiped with a clean, dry cloth. No Brass cleaners or polish, no oil or abrasive cleaners or ammonia.

When fingerprints become visible, the coated metal should be wiped with a soft dry or damp cloth as soon as possible.

We do not recommend any protective lacquering of brass and bronze door hardware. Lacquer wears off in certain use areas leaving a non-uniform or spotty finish. The areas most affected are those where the handles contact the metal. Furthermore, rings worn on the fingers can cause the lacquer to be removed thus exposing the scratches of the lacquer.

However, protective lacquer will retard aging but not eliminate and will eventually have to be re-done. If proper maintenance is followed, you will be able to elongate the times between refinishing.

We recommend that a professional maintenance company be hired to do any of the field restoration, ([like StuardDean Co., Inc. www.stuarddean.com](http://www.stuarddean.com)).