



Technical Bulletin
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Cleaning Instructions - Metal

Caution:

When polishing or cleaning metals, always follow the polish manufacturer's recommended instructions for safety and use, and carefully review all Material Safety Data Sheets applicable to such products. Special precautions must be taken with certain cleaners and polishing agents in order to avoid personal injury due to exposure to such products.

Acidic or alkaline cleaning materials or solvents may damage gunned sealants, vinyl, EPDM or neoprene glazing strips and cause water leakage into the building. These materials may also damage insulating unit sealants and cause premature failure of the insulating units. Acidic or alkaline cleaning materials or solvents may also damage Brass or Bronze metal finishes. Care must be taken to prevent this type of damage.

Anodized Aluminum:

Proper care can provide years of service with minimum maintenance. Dust and grime should be removed by regular cleaning. Use a mild, non-abrasive soap or detergent and water. To remove tar or dirt build-up, use SofScrub® followed by a soap and water cleaning and fresh water rinse. Acid or alkali cleaners should **not** be used as they may attack the anodic coating. After cleaning, surfaces should be wiped dry with a clean absorbent material, especially in hard water areas.

Painted Aluminum:

Dust and grime should be removed by regular cleaning. Use a mild, non-abrasive soap or detergent and water. Use the minimum amount of soap or detergent that will accomplish the job. Wet the surface thoroughly and clean gently using a soft, clean sponge or cloth. Follow with a fresh water rinse. Surfaces should be wiped dry with a soft, clean cloth. Contact the paint manufacturer for instructions on removing tar, sealants or dirt build-up. Do not use solvents or abrasive cleaners on painted surfaces without approval from the paint manufacturer.

Mirror Polished Stainless Steel (Alloy 304):

Mirror polished stainless steel finishes should be cleaned with a concentrated foam spray cleaner (such as Sprayway®, or a similar product) and wiped with a



clean, dry cloth. Such foam cleaners can be used as often as necessary. Liquid solutions may cloud or scratch polished stainless steel finishes.

Satin Polished Stainless Steel (Brushed) (Alloy 304):

Satin polished stainless steel finishes should be wiped clean with a mild soap and water solution, rinsed with clean water and wiped with a clean, dry cloth. For periodic maintenance, satin stainless steel can be rubbed with an abrasive pad (such as a # 9650 General Purpose Rubbing Pad by 3M). The finish should always be rubbed in the same direction as the grain texture.

Mirror Polished Brass (or Bronze) (Alloy 220/260/280/385/464)

Mirror polished copper alloys should be cleaned with a brass polishing cream that uses a low level of abrasives (such as Brasso®, or a similar product) when they begin to tarnish. 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.

If the brass is heavily stained or tarnished, please contact a brass manufacturer for acceptable cleaning methods. After cleaning and removal of stains, polish with an appropriate metal polish. Appropriate metal polishes can be obtained from janitorial supply houses or homeowner's hardware supply stores.

Satin Polished Brass (or Bronze) (Alloy 220/260/280/385/464):

Satin polished copper alloy finishes should be cleaned by rubbing with an abrasive pad (such as # 9650 General Purpose Rubbing Pad by 3M). The finish should always be rubbed in the same direction as the grain texture.

Satin, Oxidized and Oil Rubbed Bronze (Alloy 385/464):

Satin, oxidized and oil rubbed bronze should be periodically maintained by wiping with liquid lemon oil, such as the type used on wood. It should be applied with a clean cloth. The lemon oil should not be wiped dry after applying, but allowed to air dry naturally.

Finishes Coated with Clear Baked Enamel, 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. Rinse with clean water and wipe with a clean, dry cloth.



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