

MAINTENANCE OF STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES ON HANDLE

Polished #8 & brushed # 4 finishes on stainless steel (alloy 304) are one of the most durable & easiest finishes to maintain.

PRL GLASS recommends a soft clean cloth & a foam type spray glass cleaner on the soft cloth & rub the stainless steel part directionally parallel to its length. This method applies to both polished & brushed finishes.

Note: Do not use circular motions when cleaning stainless steel, especially on polished finishes, as doing so leaves fine polish lines on the surface. Do not use steel wool to clean brushed stainless steel. Steel wool leaves small pieces of wool in the brushed grooves. These pieces of wool will rust, thus the impression that the stainless steel is rusting, which is impossible.

MAINTENANCE OF BRASS BRONZE FINISHES ON HANDLE

Polished & brushed finishes applied to brass & bronze alloys must be routinely maintained to retain the desired appearance. The darkening or black spotting on the brass & bronze surfaces is simply oxidation taking place. If left untreated brass & bronze alloys will eventually turn entirely, but unevenly dark.

This dark oxidized state is the natural color of all copper alloys, which brass & bronze are included.

Maintenance of brass/bronze must be done on a routinely timely basis as needed. Depending on use & abuse, location, weather conditions or exposure to marine air, will determine the frequency that the finish will need attention.

Polished finishes (brass/bronze): polished brass is a simple process if done routinely.

PRL GLASS recommends “brasso metal polish” or equal which is applied much the same as car wax. Brass & bronze are directionally polished @ the factory parallel to the length of the part. Apply the brass polish with a soft clean cloth parallel to the length of the part with medium pressure. Allow the polish to dry & buff with a soft clean cloth. Repeat if necessary.

Note: when polishing brass or bronze do not use a circular motion as it will leave a circular pattern in the finish. PRL GLASS also suggests after re-polishing the brass or bronze, that a coat of “Harley’s pure carnuba wax” be applied to help maintain the finish.

Brushed/Satin finishes (brass/bronze): Maintenance of brushed or satin brass/bronze finishes is done using an entirely different method than that of a polished finished. PRL GLASS recommends a “Scotch brite” pad over the brass or bronze in the same direction as the existing finish (parallel to the length) will remove the oxidation from the surface. Medium pressure in long easy strokes should be all that is necessary.

Note: do not use brass polish to clean brushed/satin finishes. The polish will load up the groves in the brushed / satin finish making a simple clean job a lengthy one.

MAINTENANCE OF US10B STATUARY BRONZE ON HANDLE

The US10B is a process to age the brass/bronze surface to simulate the nature aging process.

The US10B will be specified in either oil rubbed or clear baked enamel to preserve the finish.

1.– Oil rubbed: after the aging process is complete, a hand applied lemon oil is rubbed onto the surface. The oil rubbed process allows the brass to continue to darken. On a frequent basis lemon oil should be re-applied with a soft clean cloth in the field. The frequency will be determined when the metal surface appears dull & dry.

2.– Clear baked enamel: after the aging process is complete a clear baked enamel is applied to the brass surface to delay further darkening (aging). Clear baked enamel should be cleaned with a soft cotton cloth & a spray type glass cleaner. Do not soak the brass finish.

Note: the clear baked enamel finish will delay aging but not eliminate the possibility. The baked enamel finish is susceptible to abrasion & scratching. ***Clear baked enamel carries no warranty*** & it will eventually have to be re-done.

PRL GLASS recommends that a professional brass maintenance company be hired to do any of the field restorations.

We do not recommend any protective lacquering of brass & 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 delay aging but not eliminate & will eventually have to be re-done.

If proper maintenance is followed, you will be able to elongate the time between re-finishing.

We recommend that a professional brass maintenance company be hired to do any of the field restorations.