

architectural BRONZE CASEMENTS

ARCHITECTURAL BRONZE GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Our windows and doors are manufactured from Bronze Manganese Alloy which is an extremely attractive and durable material. Some simple steps of routine maintenance are required to preserve the finish. Bronze is made from natural materials which patinate and darken over time. This is a natural process that occurs due to atmospheric conditions and the tone that develops may vary, anything from a 'milky bloom' to a more obvious discolouration 'greening' of the surface, depending on the amount of use and the location of the material. Generally, our clients see this as an enhancement of the metal, adding an aged beauty, but this may not suit all.

Each window and door goes through a process to give an aged finish and whilst a wax coating is hand applied, general external air pollutants, salt and/or internal excessive moisture caused by condensation or fresh plasterwork/decoration will deteriorate the surface.

The windows need to be cleaned and waxed regularly and we recommend at least twice yearly in general conditions and every three months where the windows are subjected to harsh conditions such as sea water spray, tree sap or excessive pollution and contaminants.

CLEANING & WAXING

The casements should be cleaned by rubbing them gently using a soft cloth such a micro-fibre towel and cold or warm water and rinsed well with clean water.

Regular window cleaning will also cause the wax to be removed and we therefore advise that to keep your windows looking their best, you reapply a natural wax to retain the original finish. Pressure washers or strong detergents should not be used to clean your windows as this will accelerate the deterioration of the wax finish and will have a corrosive or abrasive effect on the bronze. Any detergents that are used should be pH neutral, in a mild solution and should not 'sit' on the frame for a prolonged period.

Step 1: Using a soft micro-fibre cloth, gently wipe your frames and handles free of any dust or debris. If excessively dirty, a damp cloth may be used to gently wipe away debris.

Step 2: Make sure the bronze is dry. Using a micro-fibre cloth or artists' soft bristle brush, apply a thin coat of wax. When first applied, the patina may darken, but as the wax dries, the original colour should return.

Step 3: Let it sit for at least five minutes, the longer the better; then gently buff back with a clean micro-fibre cloth. You may repeat steps 2 & 3 until the desired effect is achieved. A minimum of two coats is advised. Use of protective gloves, eye-ware and mask is recommended.

Good quality wax polishes suitable for metals are available either from Vale or from specialist hardware stockists. Household furniture wax is not suitable.

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