Metal Maintenance & Care

Your DWP metal panels and trim have been delivered either with or without a factory-applied protective coating, applied directly to the metal, such as lacquer, wax, or other surface protection. A protective film has been applied to metal to help protect the metal during the fabrication and shipping processes. Reference your approved shop drawings and/or your signed purchase agreement to confirm whether or not your metal panels have a protective coating.

While most of our metal panels are considered low maintenance, areas of the metal surfaces that come into human contact will produce fingerprints due to the presence of salts and oils in skin. Routine maintenance, including cleaning and polishing are required in order to maintain the appearance of the metal surfaces. Typically, brass and bronze metals require more maintenance than stainless steel finishes.

To maintain the integrity of your DWP products, please follow the cleaning procedures outlined in this document.

These instructions for the maintenance and care of your DWP products are provided to you as a service. No warranty is expressed or implied herein.

Unpacking and Storage

It is recommended that the panels be carefully unpacked on-site prior to installation. When securing or transporting panels, do NOT allow ropes, straps, or cords to come into direct contact with the metal surfaces - scratching may occur. NOTE: While most metals are considered to be relatively hard materials, some metals are harder than others, and they can be scratched. Panels and trims should be stored in a clean, dry area, free from dirt and debris.

Handling and Installation

Installers should take care to avoid surface scratching by removing all rings, watches, or other jewelry items prior to handling or installing the panels. Disposable latex gloves are recommended during handling and installation. If areas of the panels or trims require masking, 3M Blue Masking Tape is recommended. However, the tape should not be allowed to remain on stainless surfaces for more than three days. Upon removal of tape, denatured alcohol or MEK (on a microfiber towel) may be used to remove any adhesive residue. Stainless surfaces should be protected when drilling or tapping any adjacent ferrous metals, as rust or discoloration from those ferrous metals can contaminate the stainless steel resulting in the accumulation of rust and possible discoloration. Any tools used on a ferrous metal should not, under any circumstances, be used on a stainless steel surface.

Stainless Steel

After final factory-polishing, your DWP panels and trims are packaged and shipped from the factory on specifically engineered pallets or crates. During shipping, the soft bubble-wrap packing may leave a minute amount of residue on the doors and frames. This necessitates on-site cleaning and polishing after installation. Most alloys of stainless steel are not highly reactive to chemicals. However, caution must be exercised when using cleansers, polishes, and waxes on stainless steel products.

Satin (#4, Brushed) finished 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. Do not use these products on a #8 Mirror polished stainless steel as scratching of the mirror finish will result.

Product s to Avoid

Any cleaning and polishing products that are abrasive or contain harsh chemicals such as ammonia or chlorine should be avoided. These include products such as:

- Brasso, Semichrome, or any other commercially available metal polishes or creams
- Windex, Formula 409, and all ammonia-based products (produces streaks)
- Degreasing agents, powdered cleansers, paint thinners, or harsh solvents
- Furniture polish or paste waxes

Any cleaning towels that are abrasive must be avoided. These include:

- Paper towels of ANY kind
- Commercial Terrycloth, linen, or cotton rags / towels (no matter how “soft” they feel to the touch)
- Avoid squeegees, sponges, or any type of scouring pad
- Avoid razor blades, scrapers, putty knives, etc.

Recommended Cleaning Products

The following products are recommended for the cleaning of DWP stainless steel panels & trims:

Cleaner

Sprayway® brand glass cleaner may be used to clean stainless doors and frames when utilized in conjunction with a soft microfiber cleaning cloth. All dust and debris should be blown (not wiped) from stainless surfaces prior to cleaning. Liberally apply Sprayway® glass cleaner to the entire surface of the microfiber cloth (both sides), and gently wipe over the stainless surfaces. Immediately follow (dry) with a microfiber cloth.

Unlike other glass cleaners, Sprayway® contains no harsh chemicals or ammonia, and is "streak-free."

Microfiber Cleaning Towels

Utilize ONLY microfiber towels when cleaning or polishing stainless doors and frames. Be sure to remove the paper label from each towel prior to use to avoid scratching. Microfiber towels may be washed after use, but chemicals in detergent may produce streaks.

Polish

3M brand Ultrafine SE polishing compound (#06068) is recommended for polishing of mirror-finished stainless surfaces. It will remove hairline scratches and light scuffs, and is applied to a clean microfiber towel folded into a small (4" X 4") square. Apply polish in a gentle circular motion, much the same as applying automotive wax.

Polish only small areas at a time - approx. 2' x 2'. Immediately remove polish residue with a clean microfiber towel with a light buffing motion. Polish can also be utilized with 3M foam pads

in conjunction with a buffing machine. After machine buffing, hand polishing is recommended as a final step.

Recommended Protective Products

The following products are recommended for periodic application (after polishing) of our stainless panels and trims

Liquid Wax

After polishing, it is recommended that Meguiar's X-Press liquid wax be applied in the same manner as the polish. This will help reduce oxidation (darkening), and will keep fingerprints to a minimum. Periodic polishing and waxing is recommended for heavy traffic areas.

Other Important Information

Refinishing

After years of heavy use, neglect, or damage (i.e. scratches, rub marks, etc.), you may wish to have DWP panels and trims re-polished by a professional.

Lacquering

If a protective lacquer is desired to reduce maintenance (fingerprints), be aware that the brilliance of the mirror-polished finish will be slightly reduced (no matter how good the quality of the lacquer). Consult a professional finisher that has experience in lacquering metals.

Stainless Steel Cleaners and Polishes that Contain Oil

Although Sprayway® brand Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish is HIGHLY recommended for textured stainless steel finishes, it contains oils designed to repel fingerprints. These oils have a tendency to show up as streaks on mirror-polished surfaces, even after rigorous polishing.

In addition, the oils dissipate fairly quickly, requiring frequent re-application. The Meguiar's liquid wax (above) is a far better protective barrier against fingerprints, and leaves no streaks whatsoever. Meguiar's wax offers far better longevity in acting as a protective barrier as well as repelling fingerprints.

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. With a steel, the oxidation is orange (rust), with Aluminum, it is white, and with brass and bronze, the oxidation is black. 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.

Un-Coated Brass & Bronze

When panels are provided without any lacquer or other applied coating, you should expect to see early signs of oxidation in as little as 3 weeks, depending on the environment in which the panels are located. Regular maintenance of un-coated brass and bronze is must. Consider commercial products such as Brasso, and Bar Keepers Friend.

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 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 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.

Coated Brass & Bronze

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.

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 should be used with coated metals, or you will strip/damage the coating.

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

Please note the following when considering whether or not to specify a coating on your metal panels. 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.

A protective lacquer will retard aging but will not eliminate it entirely; it will eventually have to be re-done. If proper maintenance is followed, you will be able to elongate, but not eliminate the times between refinishing. We recommend that a professional maintenance company be hired to do any of the desired field restoration.

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, many installations can be maintained by oiling or waxing.

Non-lacquered 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 few weeks of receipt in order to build up a protective film on the metal. 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

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