

## CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

### Naval Brass, Muntz Metal, or Commercial Bronze

All architectural metals, no matter where located or in what configuration, will require the same basic attention. These metals may be wiped down periodically depending on how dirty they get, which depends on their location. That wiping process should be done only with a soft cloth or sponge, dampened with clear water only. If stubborn spots or stains are encountered, a minimal amount of very mild detergent soap like Ivory might be added. At no time should any abrasives like steel wool, fiber pads or brushes be applied to any of these surfaces, nor should any abrasive cleaners be used, such as Comet or anything similar. Chemical cleaners should never be applied to these surfaces --- that would include even those which are regarded as simple cleaners, like ammonia or vinegar, or the most complex and harsh trisodium phosphate. Any of these chemicals or anything like them will be very detrimental to the metallic finishes.

When the metal has a lacquered finish, it may be advantageous to apply a coat of paste wax to the surface. Any good automotive-type wax can be used. It should be applied with a very soft, water-dampened cloth. Use only straight and soft strokes. Wax can be buffed using very soft cloths in straight strokes following any grain in the metal.

Where bronze is concerned, these basic practices must be augmented by periodic, complete refinishing performed by a professional metal refinishing company. Lacquer on exterior finishes typically breaks down at approximately 6 – 12 months. At that time, the material needs to be stripped and re-lacquered. **We highly recommend our customers contact a professional refinisher to perform regular maintenance and refinishing of your product.** In this process, the existing coatings are removed, metal is re-cleaned, and a fresh coat of clear, protective lacquer is applied.

The frequency of these refinishings will vary with the type of finish involved and the location. For instance, mirror bronze, the most delicate of all, requires more attention than natural satin or statuary finish. Mirror bronze in an exterior location entrance would be refinished at least every six months, and in some applications, more often. An interior swing door would probably be refinished once every year. An interior window frame up high out of reach would be refinished once every two years. The above parameters will vary depending on building size, existing atmospheric conditions, and specific requirements.

The cleaning staff should be informed and often reminded of these procedures to eliminate costly damage to finished surfaces.