



CARE AND MAINTENANCE- ZINC COUNTERTOPS

Zinc countertops have surfaces which quickly tarnish when exposed to air, forming a distinctive layer, or patina. The patina increases over time and reacts with acidic liquids like vinegar, sauce, fruit juice and other materials to create a distinct aesthetic or marks. Traditionally, zinc tops are supplied in a 'Natural Matte Finish' and patina will develop over time the more it is used.

At Custom Metal Home, we offer another option and that is the 'Darkened Patina Finish'. Our patina experts will kick start the aging process by hand applying a solution to give the surface our signature look. For these tops, a clear lacquer is applied to preserve the finish. Special care must be taken as not to damage the lacquered surface, as patina will start to develop in those areas once damaged.

Zinc care and maintenance will depend on which finish you choose

Natural Matte Finish

Windex or mild soap and water are recommended for daily cleaning. Wipe up all liquids with towel and dry thoroughly.

In depth maintenance:

- Deep scratches may be sanded out using sandpaper grits going from 150 to 220 and buffed with a 3M Scotch-Brite pad. Brush the top in a circular pattern to recreate its original finish
- For white marks or rings, scrub the countertop lightly with diluted vinegar using a 3m Scotch Brite pad and rinse with water
- DO NOT USE BLEACH- Bleach reacts very strongly with zinc and will leave marks

Darkened Patina Finish (w/ lacquer sealant)

To prolong the life of the lacquer, it is advised that the top is regularly cleaned with warm soapy water. To do this, you should only get the lacquered zinc wet enough to clean the surface, then wipe with a clean wet cloth and dry thoroughly. You should also regularly dust the top with a soft cloth, but in general you will not need to wash it. However, if you do need to wipe something off, you should only use tepid water and mild washing up liquid.

Protect your zinc tops by using trivets for hot plates and cutting boards for chopping. Also, wipe up any liquids or spills promptly to prevent spotting and rings.