



CARE AND MAINTENANCE- ZINC COUNTERTOPS

Zinc is commonly known as a living metal, as it will age with everyday use to form a patina that is unique to each top. Aging and tarnishing is an inherent property of zinc and should be considered before choosing a living metal. This is what gives zinc its rustic charm that is one of a kind. Zinc is a non-porous surface that is a great choice for counters and tabletops with its antibacterial properties. It is a natural element found in the earth's crust as well as in the human body, and it is a fully recyclable metal. At Custom Metal Home we use only the highest quality sheets that are 99.99% pure zinc. We use durable heavy gauge sheets that will stand the test of time and will not dent or warp like more commonly used thin gauge sheets.

Matte Finish - zinc is sanded to a fine non-directional finish and protected with organic food grade beeswax. The color would begin as light gray/silver and would become darker and develop a natural patina with everyday use over time.

Darkened Patina Finish - zinc is sanded to a fine non-directional finish and darkened by hand to a beautiful pre-weathered look. Color tones vary throughout the piece from gray to dark gray, and no two pieces are exactly alike. The zinc is protected with organic food grade beeswax and would develop a natural patina with everyday use over time.

Cleaning - everyday cleaning should be done with a soft towel or sponge with natural cleaner or dish soap. Harsh chemicals and acidic cleaners will stain the zinc, and anything abrasive should be avoided.

Maintenance - we hand apply a layer of organic food grade beeswax to our zinc tops to help keep them free of fingerprints and blemishes during delivery and installation. The wax will wear off and the patina process will begin. In our experience, the first patina marks are often glass rings or food stains, and that first mark can look like a blemish on the surface. We recommend that you give it some time for more rings and patina marks to appear. In a short while your pattern of use will be revealed, and the marks will flow together to an attractive mottled surface. Wax can be re-applied occasionally but is not necessary. A layer of wax will help put a barrier between the zinc and daily use and will slow down the patina process. Zinc is a softer metal and may show surface scratches, which is considered part of the rustic, weathered charm. Many scratches heal and evolve as time passes.

Oxidation - standing water on a zinc surface will likely result in some oxidation, forming a powdery white color or glass ring. This can usually be removed with a soft cloth and dish soap if it is newly created. The longer the white marks are there, the more persistent they will be to remove. You might need a more abrasive cloth, or even fine steel wool.

Refurbishing – zinc can always be restored by sanding it throughout with an orbital sander. Keep in mind this will brighten the color back to its natural light gray/silver. Start with low grit discs (80-120 grit) to remove heavy scratches and patina, and finish incrementally with higher grits up to 300. Once buffed with sanding discs, the zinc will be more prone to react quickly to anything that touches it (including dirty hands). We recommend wiping it down immediately with denatured alcohol, and then applying wax after the alcohol evaporates.