



Caring for Copper Sinks & Bathtubs

Maintaining Copper

Copper sinks and bathtubs are incredibly easy to care for. Much easier, in fact, than you've been led to believe! First of all, it's helpful to know that copper itself is *indestructible*! It's simply *not* possible to damage copper. It is however, possible to damage the patina finish. So for this reason alone, it's important to know exactly what needs to be done in the way of proper care and maintenance of copper sinks and bathtubs.

The key to maintaining copper sinks and bathtubs is more about what you don't do, rather than what 'to do'. And what you *don't* want to do is scrub, polish or use any acid-based or abrasive types of products on them!

Our copper sinks and bathtubs are finished with a patina that is 'fired' into the material, giving them an 'aged' or weathered appearance. If you scrub, polish or use caustic and/or abrasive products when cleaning them, you run the risk of damaging the patina. To maintain your sink and bathtub in 'like new' condition, simply rinse them with water and wipe them dry after each use. Give them an occasional cleaning with a very mild (lemon-free) soap and you'll be assured of *lifetimes* of enjoyment!

Hard Water Areas

If you live in an area where the mineral content in your water is high, we suggest you wipe your copper sink and bathtub dry after each use to prevent potential spotting. When 'hard' water is left to stand, minerals in the water accumulate and begin to form deposits on the sink or tub. Once that happens, they'll be difficult to remove and may even damage the patina finish.

A Light Wax Coating

You can give your copper sink and bathtub an added layer of protection (especially in 'hard water' areas), simply by applying a light coat of wax. We recommend a high quality wax that allows the copper to 'breathe', such as 'Renaissance Wax'. Waxing will protect your sink and tub against mineral deposits and other types of build ups, especially for those in 'hard water' areas. How often should you apply a new coat of wax? As often as needed. When you notice that water is no longer 'beading up' on the surface of your copper sink or bath tub, it's time to apply another coat.

Cleaning Your Copper Sink & Bathtub

Copper is naturally antibacterial and more sanitary than all other materials currently used to make sinks and bath tubs. Recent studies have shown that bacteria only lives for *hours* on copper, as compared to living for days on stainless steel... and even longer on all other types of kitchen and bath surfaces! Your copper sink and bath tub will do most of the work in keeping themselves clean. All you have to do is help them maintain themselves by giving them an occasional cleaning with a very gentle soap. **To clean...** use a soft, nonabrasive cloth, mild soap, warm water and *gently* wipe the interior and exterior of your copper sink or bathtub. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and wipe them dry with a *soft*, clean cloth.

Warning! *Housekeepers are trained to scrub and polish and often use a variety of abrasive cleansing agents when cleaning kitchens and baths. This practice may cause them to unintentionally damage the patina. Please educate your housekeeper on the proper way to clean and care for your copper sinks and tubs.*

One Final Note... for your kitchen and vegetable prep sinks!

All acid based foods and/or food items... lemons, tomatoes, mustard, pineapple, vinegar, etc... have the potential to damage the patina finish. To avoid ruining the finish it is best to leave water running while working with products and foods of this nature. And, be sure to thoroughly rinse your sink clean immediately after each use.

Questions?? Call us toll free at **1.800.679.5626** or email copper@treasuresdeoldmexico.com