

Mirror Polished Bronze Doors and Frames with No Protective Finish

Your Stiles mirror-polished bronze doors and frames have been delivered without any type of factory-applied protective coating such as lacquer, wax, or other surface protection.

The bronze will begin to darken if not periodically maintained. Surfaces of the doors and frames that come into human contact will darken (oxidize) faster than adjacent areas due to salts in human sweat. Routine maintenance, including cleaning and polishing are required in order to maintain the brilliance and rich luster of the mirror-polished surfaces.

■ Unpacking and Storage

It is recommended that doors and frames be carefully unpacked on-site just prior to installation, and placed in a vertical position. When securing or transporting doors and frames, do NOT allow ropes, straps, or cords to come into direct contact with the mirror-polished surfaces -- scratching will occur. NOTE: Bronze is a soft material, and is easily scratched or marred even by cotton pads or cloths.

Doors and frames should be stored in a clean, dry area, free from high humidity and air contaminants such as heavy exhaust and / or solvent fumes.

■ 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 doors. Disposable latex gloves are recommended during handling and installation. Direct contact with bare hands may result in faster oxidation of handled areas (fingerprinting).

If areas of the doors or frames require masking, 3M Blue Masking Tape is recommended. Tape must NOT be allowed to remain on bronze surfaces over 2 days (or discoloration may occur). Upon removal of tape, denatured alcohol or MEK (on a microfiber towel) may be used to remove any adhesive residue.

■ Cleaning and Polishing

After final factory-polishing, doors and frames are custom 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. Bronze (and other non-ferrous metals) are very reactive to chemicals. Extreme caution must be exercised when using cleansers, polishes, and waxes on bronze products.

PRODUCTS TO AVOID

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

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

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 bronze doors and frames:



Cleaner

Sprayway® brand glass cleaner may be used to clean bronze doors when utilized in conjunction with a soft microfiber cleaning cloth. All dust and debris should be blown (not wiped) from bronze surfaces prior to cleaning.

Liberaly apply Sprayway® glass cleaner to the entire surface of the microfiber cloth (both sides), and gently wipe over bronze surface. Immediately follow (dry) with a microfiber cloth.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES! Unlike other glass cleaners, Sprayway contains no harsh chemicals or ammonia, and is "streak-free." It is available at professional glass shops, as well as many Home Depot stores nationwide.

Microfiber Cleaning Towels

Utilize **ONLY** microfiber towels when cleaning or polishing bronze 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.

Microfiber towels are available nationwide at Ace Hardware stores, as well as most Costco stores (best price). Towels are also available at most auto detailing outlets.



■ Recommended Polishing Products

The following products are recommended for the periodic polishing of bronze doors and frames:



Polish

3M brand Ultrafine SE polishing compound (#06068) is recommended for polishing of mirror-finished bronze 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.

Polish is available at most automotive paint and finish distributors nationwide.

■ Recommended Protective Products

The following products are recommended for periodic application (after polishing) of bronze doors and frames:



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, a monthly polishing / maintenance regimen should be followed.

Meguiar's products are available at most automotive paint and finish distributors nationwide.

■ Other Important Information

Refinishing

After years of heavy use, neglect, or damage (i.e. weathering, scratches, rub marks, etc.), you may wish to have your doors and frames re-polished by a professional. Consult your local yellow pages directory under "Metal Finishing" or "Metal Refinishing." Many local metal plating shops are also able to provide referrals.

Lacquering

If a protective lacquer is desired to reduce maintenance, 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.

Our Care & Maintenance Guides are prepared as tools designed to inform our customers of techniques that relate to the post-delivery care of our products. It is our goal to help you make informed decisions when designing, specifying, ordering, installing, or maintaining Stiles products.

Stiles makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of information obtained from outside sources. Whenever possible, links will be provided for additional information, and sources cited.