

HERE IS THE WINLOCK GUIDE TO KEEPING YOUR SOLID BRASS FURNITURE LOOKING IT'S BEST:

COATED OR UNCOATED BRASS?

Traditionally brass furniture was always supplied uncoated, and kept in tip top condition by the application of elbow grease!! Winlock still supply uncoated solid brass products, but brass can also be found with the following coatings:

- Lacquered
- Chrome plated
- PVD coated

The cleaning regime is different for the different finishes so it is important to establish whether your brass is coated and if so what with. If the finish dulls relatively quickly then it is almost certainly uncoated brass, if it is a polished chrome finish then it is probably chrome plated and if it is a high gloss brass finish that does not dull then it will either be lacquered or pvd coated. In general, older and cheaper high gloss finishes are probably lacquered whereas newer and more expensive furniture is more likely to be pvd coated. If there is any evidence of discoloured areas or clear flakes appearing then it is definitely a lacquered product.

CLEANING

LACQUERED BRASS

Winlock does not sell lacquered brass and we do not recommend it – and here's why. The lacquer will break down over time and will leave unsightly dull patches where the lacquer has flaked off. If the surface is scratched then this process is accelerated. The only solution to this problem is to remove all the lacquer with an acetone thinner, it can then be maintained as uncoated brass. In the meantime cleaning with warm mild soapy water and drying with a clean duster is all that is needed.

UNCOATED

One of the beauties of solid brass is that you can choose to let it naturally oxidise and take on an aged patina or you can keep it bright by regular cleaning. Wipe with a soft dry cloth regularly in either case to keep the surfaces clean, and if a bright finish is required then elbow grease, a soft cloth and a proprietary brass cleaner (such as Brasso) will do the job.

CHROME PLATED BRASS

A plated finish (normally polished chrome) on solid brass furniture should be cleaned regularly with warm mild soapy water and thoroughly dried with a clean duster. If the chrome plated surface becomes slightly dulled or discoloured for any reason then the application of a non- abrasive metal cleaner such as Autosol will return the finish to a bright gloss.

PVD COATED BRASS

These products are treated with a pvd coating which provides an extremely hard surface finish which makes it unlikely to scratch or mark in normal use. Cleaning with a damp cloth followed by drying with a dry duster should be sufficient to maintain the surface appearance of these products.

CLEANING INTERVALS

Wiping with a soft cloth is recommended for all solid brass furniture monthly.

Unlacquered brass will probably require polishing with a brass cleaner every 3 months or so to maintain a bright finish.

Plated or pvd coated brass should be cleaned every 3 months if used externally, and as frequently as is needed to maintain a bright finish if used internally.

Website: www.winlock.co.uk

Email: sales@winlock.co.uk

Call: 01952 602250

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