



Maintenance, Cleaning & Restoration

It's relatively easy to preserve the beauty of bronze & aluminum plaques. They require occasional cleaning with mild soap and some water.

Over time, even with regular cleaning bronze will “Patina” turning the metal surface a greenish or dark brown color. This is part of the natural oxidizing process that occurs when copper is exposed to the elements. Our polyurethane finishes and clear coats will slow the aging process, but eventually all plaques will begin the oxidation process. Cast aluminum plaques will also corrode over time. Aluminum plaques tend to darken and a chalky white oxidation can appear when exposed to salt or certain chemicals. While some customers love the natural “aged” look that results from the oxidation process, others prefer the crisp factory finish on their cast bronze or aluminum plaque. As a rule, it is best to leave the plaque surface untouched unless obvious deterioration or staining has occurred. We offer a variety of refurbish and restoration services for cast metal plaques, call us for additional details and prices.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF PLAQUE DETERIORATION?

All dimensional and design features of bronze plaques and markers will remain intact indefinitely. Aluminum plaques if kept clean will also resist the elements, but are more prone to severe oxidation and damage if left unkept. A few things that can have negative effects on cast plaques are severe ultraviolet light, extreme temperatures, pollution, chemicals or fertilizers, damage due to vandalism, standing water, and salt or mineral buildup on the face of the plaque.

MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR PLAQUES WITH A PAINTED BACKGROUND

1. Clean your plaque with warm water and a mild detergent
2. Use a bristle brush or toothbrush with soft plastic bristles if needed
3. Do not use wire brush or abrasive cleaning products to clean
4. Rinse the plaque when finished with clean water

MAINTENANCE FOR PLAQUES WITH A NATURAL BACKGROUND

1. Clean your plaque with warm water and a mild detergent
2. Use a “Scotch Brite” pad to rub over the raised surfaces
3. Be sure to rub the plaque in the direction of the polished grain
4. Wipe the surface clean and rinse with water and allow to dry
5. Apply a new coat of clear lacquer or clear coat to surface of plaque
6. Allow to dry and polish clean with a soft cloth



FACTORY REFURBISHMENT & REFINISHING



BEFORE



AFTER

- Plaques and cast letters can be returned to us for factory refinishing. At our plant, the plaques are sandblasted, sprayed with a selected background color, highlighted, and given a new protective coating. Factory refinishing usually takes two weeks. Call us for prices and details about your project.
- We also offer various kits that allow plaques to be refinished on-site. The kit includes everything needed to resurface and apply a new protective coating in under two hours.

There are 3 ways to maintain the natural beauty of bronze & aluminum plaques
Periodic Cleaning On-site Refinishing Factory Refurbishment