



Brass & Bronze

Brass and bronze are alloys of copper and zinc. Depending on the ratio of one element to the other, the color of these metals can range from a rich gold tone to a reddish brown tone. They are extremely durable and Almy uses both to make many

appointments and fittings. However, like silver, both are apt to tarnish over time. Most of the items we make from brass or bronze do not come into routine contact with water, and are not handled excessively, so we manufacture them with clear lacquer coatings to prevent tarnishing. To maintain the luster of the metal, unlacquered brass or bronze items must be polished regularly. For regular light cleaning, a polish-infused cloth such as Almy's Polishing Cloth may be suitable. For "heavier" jobs, use a clean cotton cloth with a polishing compound like Almy's WOW!. Remember, brass and bronze are hard durable metals, so don't hesitate to use some "elbow grease" when polishing. After polishing use a clean, 100% cotton cloth to buff the metal to its best shine.

Some Special Care Notes

WAX REMOVAL This has always been a concern when caring for metal candlesticks, torches and candelabra. Using Almy Liquid Candles will completely eliminate that problem! Where wax candles are still used, you should use followers with your candles to prevent drips — followers for any size candle are available from Almy. Another preventive measure to take before burning candles is to lightly spray the bobeche (drip pans) with "Pam" or a similar aerosol shortening product. The oil will resist direct adhesion by the wax. As the wax builds up, wipe the entire bobeche with a clean, soft cloth and re-spray. When wax is stuck to your article, we recommend Almy's Wax Remover: apply an amount ample enough to dissolve and loosen wax, and wipe off with a clean dry cotton cloth. Another effective cleaning technique is to run hot water over areas covered with wax. The heat of the water will loosen the wax, allowing you to wipe it off. Again, be sure to use a clean, 100% cotton cloth so you don't scratch the lacquer or the metal.

GLASS CHALICES, FLAGONS AND CRUETS To prevent stain buildup, clean the vessels regularly. Simply combine a tablespoon of liquid detergent or hand soap with a small handful of un-popped corn kernels in the cruet. Add enough warm water to cover the mixture and, holding one hand over the neck opening, shake the cruet vigorously. The corn kernels provide enough abrasion to remove stains, but will not scratch the glass. After washing, empty and rinse the cruet thoroughly.

METAL FLAGONS AND CRUETS *Never* leave wine standing in any metal vessel overnight or between services. Wine acid is extremely corrosive and will, in a very short time, cause the metal to pit or corrode. Be sure to place the wine in the flagon or cruet just prior to the service and to remove it immediately after worship has concluded. Wash the interior of metal vessels with warm soapy water, rinse, then dry thoroughly.

Almy Metalware Care Products & Metalware Refurbishing Service



We want the metal objects you use in worship to be a credit to your devotion. For that reason we offer a range of products to help you care for your appointments. See our catalogs or call a customer service representative for information about the Almy Polishing Cloth, Almy's WOW! all-purpose metal polish and Almy's Wax Remover. And when items are damaged, or the cleaning job has

gotten too large, call on our Metalware Refurbishing Service. The same craftsmen who make our new appointments will be glad to restore the luster of your heirlooms. Again, see an Almy catalog, or call our toll free number for information.



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Caring For Sacred Vessels and Appointments



Congratulations on your purchase of an Almy appointment. It is carefully hand made from the finest traditional materials and should grace your church for many years to come. The most effective way to preserve the beauty and function of your appointments is to follow a regular program of cleaning and preventive care. We hope these suggestions will help.



General Recommendations

Each metal used to make Almy appointments calls for specific handling. First, though, here are a few rules to follow in the sacristy to make cleaning all your metalware appointments easier.

- ▶ Wear clean cotton gloves *whenever* you handle metal and glass items. It will reduce the speed and severity of tarnish, and will make cleaning more effective.
- ▶ Remove rings and other jewelry whenever you handle a metal item to prevent scratches.
- ▶ An item should be cleaned thoroughly before storing. The longer the time between cleanings, the more difficult it becomes to restore the luster of the piece.
- ▶ Use a clean cloth when polishing or wiping an item. 100% cotton is ideal, since its soft fibers will not scratch the metal.
- ▶ Do not submerge metal hollowware vessels, such as chalices, ciboria and cruets in water during cleaning. The water that is trapped inside will cause the interior parts to rust or corrode and also will leak onto valuable altar linens.
- ▶ Store items in protective bags. Almy offers a wide range of tarnish-resistant storage bags for this purpose. Avoid using plastic wrap or plastic bags directly on metal items. These often contain sulfur compounds which cause some metals to tarnish quickly and others to stain.

Lacquered or unlacquered? Check before polishing!

Many items are coated with clear lacquer or polyurethane during manufacture to prevent tarnish and ease your maintenance routine. As a rule, we lacquer coat virtually all objects that are not constantly handled and will not come into frequent contact with water. Some examples of the few items we do *not* routinely lacquer are eucharistic vessels (chalices, ciboria, host boxes, cruets and flagons) and baptismal appointments. Unlacquered items can be cleaned with abrasive polishing compounds which will only scratch and possibly damage lacquered articles. If you do not know whether your article has a lacquer coating, please call.

Lacquered — Any Metal

To prevent damage to the lacquer coating, do not use abrasive polish or harsh detergent. Handle them with gloves whenever possible, since fingerprints deposit oils that can corrode lacquer over a period of time. To clean, wipe them after each use with a clean, soft cloth. With proper care lacquer or polyurethane coatings should last several years, yet they will break down over time, causing the exposed metal underneath to tarnish. When this occurs, refinishing is necessary.

Cleaning Instructions for Unlacquered Metals

Our care instructions are organized by the types of metals Almy uses to fabricate sacred vessels and church appointments. If you have a question about the metal used to make a specific article in your church, you may consult an Almy catalog or call us for information.

Gold

Among the many virtues of gold one is that, in alloys of 14 karats or better, it is largely free of tarnish. That is a good thing, because high-karat gold is also very soft, is easily scratched and quickly diminished by typical abrasive metal polishes. Items made of gold should be washed in warm soapy water, then dried with a clean, soft cloth. Mild liquid detergents or hand soaps are preferable for cleaning. Do not completely submerge the items, though, because water can become trapped inside. If noticeably soiled, gently polish the item using an Almy Polishing Cloth.



Gold Plate

Gold plate is a thin coating of gold electrochemically bonded to a base metal. Almy uses only 24 karat gold plating on our appointments, the highest quality available. To clean, follow the instructions provided for gold. Use polish only as a last resort, and then polish lightly to prevent scratches and undue reduction of the electroplate layer.

Sterling Silver

Almy's preferred metal for fine eucharistic vessels because of its beauty and durability, sterling is apt to tarnish quickly. Therefore, regular polishing and careful storage of sterling objects are musts. Use a polish-infused cloth, or a plain 100% cloth with a light silver polish. (Almy's Polishing Cloth and WOW! metal polish are both excellent choices.) Polish the item in one direction, following its contour. After application of polish, use a clean, dry cloth to remove any residue. Hard to polish places can be left slightly tarnished to enhance the design. If you prefer to remove the tarnish, use polish on a very soft brush — the "mushroom brushes" sold in some grocery stores work well. Remember, any metal polish contains tiny abrasive particles which do the actual cleaning. These inevitably will cause very fine lines to appear in the surface of the silver. Do not be distressed by the tiny scratches that you see on the surface of a piece new silver after the first polishing. After a few more cycles of use and cleaning, these lines will merge into a soft luster, a prized characteristic of fine metal appointments.

Silver Plate

Silver plate is a microscopic coating of pure silver electrochemically bonded to a base metal, such as brass or copper. Like sterling, silver plate articles will tarnish quickly simply from exposure to the air. To clean them, follow the same instructions as for sterling silver. Almy uses a very generous amount of silver when plating its items, but remember that, even so, it is microscopically thin. For that reason, use a light polish and rub only as hard as is necessary to remove the tarnish. With proper care Almy silver plate coatings will last many years.