



# THOMPSON TRADERS

## Copper Care and Cleaning

The beauty of copper is its living finish or patina. It builds overtime and works as a protective coating. The patina is a rich weathered finish with light and dark tones complementing each other and creating the unique effect of copper. It is also what gives copper its natural anti-microbial properties. If any substance or material is in contact for an extended period of time the Patina will be removed. However, if this occurs the copper will naturally re-patina and darken giving the finish a natural copper blend. Examples of products that will remove the finish leaving your sink with shiny areas: Soft Scrub, Clorox Bleach, Drano, or Acidic Foods and Products.

Pure Copper Sinks will age and patina with time and use. Copper is a living metal with Natural Anti-Microbial properties. Depending on cleaning and exposure to standard household chemicals copper will change light to dark to light with typical use. Typically an installed and frequently used copper sink will resemble the Finish of an old penny.

For daily cleaning, simply wash with mild soap and water. We recommend wiping dry “with a soft cloth” after each use to minimize spotting.

To help protect your copper sink further, we recommend applying a light application of High-Grade Carnauba wax. This can be found at any local Home Depot.

DO NOT use strong abrasive cleaners, metal scrub pads, or steel wool. These will scratch the surface.

DO NOT leave rubber mats or sponges inside the sink. Water trapped below could lead to stains.

DO NOT let food, dishes or pots and pans sit inside the copper sink for prolonged periods of time.

DO NOT allow chlorine bleach in contact with the your new Copper sink. It will remove the patina and drastically change the finish of your sink.

DO NOT allow drain cleaners to come into contact with the sink surface.

DO NOT place hot pots or pans in the sink-allow them to cool slightly.

Avoid leaving dishes, glasses, pans, etc for long periods of time.

Rust spots – Pure Copper sinks DO NOT RUST. If you see shiny spots coming through this normal and should darken over time.

Recognize that a copper finish is a living finish which will age naturally - the early spotting and color variations are due to changes in the Patina oxidation and will fade into the Patina with time - be patient and do not use metal polishes to remove spots.

Copper care/Repair kit available please call 336.272.3003 to order.

# FAQs

## 1. Do you have Installation Instructions for the sinks (under mount/vessel)?

A: We do have basic mounting instructions that can be very helpful. (*found at [www.thompsontraders.com](http://www.thompsontraders.com) under About Our Copper Section*) but one of our technicians will be happy to answer any questions you have about how to install the sink. We recommend using a 100% clear silicon sealer for under mounting or dropping in a sink and have under mount clips on request solely for under mounting sinks.

## 2. What type of soap should I use to clean the sink?

A: Common bath soap and dish detergents are the best products to use to wash the sink with but due to the antibacterial nature of copper the sink will natural kill any germs/bacteria it encounters.

## 3. Will hard water/well water harm the copper or finish?

A: Hard water will not harm the sink or the copper finish. It is recommended to wipe the sink down after each use so water spots do not develop.

## 4. How do I take get rid of the water spots, outline of dishes, and polished copper spots that appear in the sink? Is there something wrong with my sink?

A: Copper is very reactionary and will respond to anything that is put on it. Bright Spots are not uncommon but are treatable and preventable. For the most part these spots occur whenever anything acidic is used or sits on the sink. This can include any type of juices, toothpaste, and cleaning detergents. I recommend not letting anything sit on the copper and when possible wipe it down after each use with a soft cloth. The bright spots you are seeing is the original copper that the finish was put over. That means that over time and with proper usage the bright copper spots will eventually darken and patina making the finish of the sink look flush and even. Usually the process takes about 6 to 8 weeks depending on the frequency of use. After the spots darken we recommend applying wax to the sink to help prevent any future issues and protect the sink.

## 5. Do you have spec sheets or templates of your sinks?

A: No, due to the fact that all of our sinks are hand hammered and hand made we do not provide templates. We strongly recommend that the customer waits to receive the sink before cutting any counter tops keeping in mind that the sinks can vary up to a quarter inch from their listed dimensions.

## 6. What type of wax do you recommend cleaning the sink with and where can I purchase it?

A: Any high grade carnauba/bees wax will work and help protect the finish of the sink. Johnsons Hardwood Flooring wax is available for purchase at any local Lowe's or Home Depot.

## 7. What gauge are your bathrooms and kitchen sinks?

A: The bath sinks are 16 Gauge, the kitchen sinks are 14 gauge. They are made with 99% pure copper.

## 8. Do we provide Sound Proof Padding

**A:** Copper is a soft metal that does not make a lot of noise, especially if its being under mounted (counter tops help blunt the sound). If necessary the customer can buy sound deadening material at any local car stereo shop and apply to the outside/bottom of the sink themselves.

**9. Can I get a custom sink made? Can I get sink you carry in a different finish?**

**A:** Yes we can do custom work on all sinks and finishes. We will need a complete spec sheet of what is desired a to get an accurate quote. Also, you have to allow 12-14 weeks for production.