

# LABASTILLE

## Cast Care Sheet

Follow these instructions to keep your project looking great.

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### Caring for Your Cast Top

Zinc, Pewter, Brass, Copper and Bronze surfaces are relatively easy to maintain, but they come with some precautions. As these are organic materials, i.e. living metals, they oxidize and respond to their environment. The finish is not static and will change. The surface will change slightly over time and with use. How much is completely dependant on the environment in which it is housed, what it comes into contact with and how it is cared for. When well maintained, the tops are made to last for years to come.

### Can I restore the finish?

These materials are easy to restore to their original pristine state. Much like a piece of sterling silver, the patina adds to the beauty and rich character but the piece can also be restored to its original state. How this is accomplished depends on the metal and finish originally chosen. Ask us and we will walk you through the process.

Changes in the patina are temporary and are cosmetic in nature. If you have a dark patina, the markings will be more apparent as they are lighter in color. If you have a light patina, darker tones may begin to develop. This is the beauty of these materials – do not become alarmed at the first markings, but rather

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embrace that the material is undergoing a natural process. For daily maintenance, adhere to the following:

## Clean Regularly

Mild soap and water or a basic cleaner such as 7th generation or simple green is all it takes to keep these surfaces clean. A basic daily or after-use wipe down is generally enough to maintain the surface appearance and cleanliness. You may begin to see some changes in the color – some spots may appear. Please be patient as this is part of the natural process. This is not a stain, an etching or a defect. This is exactly what these materials do. This will happen even when a protective wax coating is applied, although its application will significantly slow this process.

## Optional Coating

The use of a Carnauba wax can help slow the patina process, and will act to help protect the surface over time. If you decide to go this route, we recommend a product like Turtle Wax- Super Hard Shell or Mother's California Gold Pure Carnauba Wax that can be found in most automotive or big box stores. Simply buff the product onto the surface per the manufacturer's recommendations, then buff off with a microfiber cloth. More frequent applications will slow the change in patina. Some clients prefer to never wax their tops – the choice is up to the end user.



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## What to Avoid:

### Acidic Materials

Each patina finish is carefully created by hand. Anything acidic may alter the patina. While it is impossible to avoid this in a bar setting, be aware that acids will alter the finish. The darker your patina, the more noticeable the markings may be. When the patina changes, do not panic, as this is a normal occurrence and not a defect. Keep using the surface and within several months it should blend with the rest of the surface. Do not use highly acidic cleaners containing orange or lemon juice.

### Do Not Use Harsh Chemical Cleaners

This includes products that contain bleach and ammonia and other chemical abrasives. These cleaners are too harsh for the soft surface of these materials and can cause damage.

### Do Not Use for Cutting

These metals are softer than stainless steel. They resist scratches from general daily use, but the application of a sharp edge directly on the surface will leave an impression. We recommend the use of a cutting board.

### Do Not Place Hot Items Directly on Surface

Use hot plates and trivets and do not place hot pots and pans directly on surfaces. Doing so may cause irreparable damage.



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## Do Not Use Rubber Mats

Do not use rubber placemats or commercial rubber mats in the drink well or on the surface as a serving area. They tend to trap moisture which will degrade the metal. This will damage the metal and **will immediately void the warranty.**

## Seal Apertures

If you have faucet holes, beer taps or cut into the top for any reason, you must seal it properly. If the substrate is left exposed and water or beer gets into the wooden substrate for an extended period of time, it can irreparably damage your top and leaks not properly sealed are **not covered by warranty.** Gaskets are needed for faucets and beer taps. Silicone around the edges of the faucets or taps. Regularly check for any leakage and reseal it immediately.

