

## Caring for your Zinc Countertop

What does it look like?

- Zinc is a reactive metal that will develop a patina and change over time.
- Matte Zinc has a distinctive blue-gray hue, and will develop a hazy-gray patina over time.
- Professionally patinated zinc will be darker and more uniform than zinc whose patina develops naturally.
- Both matte and patinated zinc have a "living finish" and will continue to evolve throughout the lifetime of the countertop.

What can I expect?

- Zinc is food-safe and even anti-bacterial, making it a great material for food preparation surfaces.
- Zinc countertops are not and are not meant to represent an unchanging, monolithic surface.
- Slight scratches, pinholes, and soldering marks can be expected on your zinc; these slight imperfections are what create the European, rustic charm of this country metal.
- Hammered zinc will have a wavy, undulated surface and will not be machine flat.
- Over time, your countertop will develop a unique "pattern of use." Areas of frequent use and cleaning will appear lighter and smoother, while areas that are used less often will look darker.
- Depending on the size and shape of your countertop, a non-welded butt seam may be required for construction.
- Very large tops may require a mechanical, silicone-sealed field joint. No on-site welding is necessary.
- While it is a durable material, zinc may be scratched by heavy daily use.

**Care:**

- To protect your zinc countertops, we recommend the use of trivets for hot plates and cutting boards for chopping.
- Windex or mild soap and water are recommended for daily cleaning.
- To avoid spotting or glass rings, promptly wipe up any liquids or spills.

## Maintenance:

- The blue-gray patina of zinc will develop naturally over time; it may take up to a year to acquire the full look.
- Care for your zinc countertop varies based on its finish:
  - Matte Finish:
    - Normal – Minor scratches and mineral streaking can be brushed out using a household 3M Scotch-Brite™ pad.
    - Extreme Cases – Deep scratches may be sanded out using sandpaper grades up to 220 and buffed. Brush the countertop in a circular pattern to recreate its original finish. This will leave a matte, unpatinated finish. The normal patina will return over time, but may be in a different pattern.
  - Mirror-Polish Finish:
    - Normal – Zinc may be treated with standard metal polish (Noxon).
    - Extreme Cases – To renew the finish, use an automotive compound with a machine-polishing pad.
  - Patinated Finish:
    - Windex is great for day-to-day cleaning. Patinated finishes have NO protective coatings. Sanding or buffing will remove scratches, but will also remove the patina. The top will again darken over time, but may not exactly match the rest of the countertop. Acidic items such as lemon juice and metal polish may remove the patina while some food items will add to it.
    - As zinc has a "living finish", your top will change with wear, tear, and time. Your countertop may darken over time and will develop its own, unique pattern of use. The patination process is unique to each countertop, and no two will end up looking exactly alike.