

Maintaining Your Brass Vent:

Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc. It tends to oxidize (tarnish) quickly when exposed to air. Our brass vents are given a clear coating of lacquer (from the manufacturer) in order to prevent this condition from occurring.

Should the lacquer coating become worn, oxygen can penetrate the fine scratches in the finish and tarnish the brass underneath. To determine if your vent has become uncoated, rub with a soft cloth and brass polish. If a black residue rubs off on the cloth, the brass is uncoated.

Brass can also turn black when cleaning due to the over-use and misuse of polish.

Basic Care & Cleaning:

If your vent is mounted in the floor, remove the vent when using household cleaners and liquids near the vent. If they should come into contact with your vent they may remove or eat through the lacquer, which will cause the vent to tarnish. Should this occur follow the steps below.

To clean your vent use a dry cloth and wipe gently with the grain to wipe away any dirt and dust. You may use a slightly damp cloth (water only) if needed – be sure to dry immediately.

Polishing / Re-Lacquering Brass:

At some time it may become necessary to re-polish your brass vent. First you must remove the existing lacquer. This can be done by washing the entire brass casting with lacquer thinner or the equivalent. Follow the instructions on the can and allow the vent to dry.

Once the lacquer has been removed and the vent is dry it can be re-polished with a household brass polish. Be sure to polish with the grain – going against the grain can scratch the vent. Many people over-use and flood metal surfaces with polishes believing that they are better protecting the surface. In fact, doing so can cause damage to the brass finish. More polish creates a smudging problem since fingerprints "dissolve" the solvency of the metal polish. Additionally, too much polish may discolor the surface. Only a trace amount creating a *thin* film should be applied.

After polishing you should lacquer the brass with a clear gloss lacquer. Wearing clean lint-free gloves will keep oils from your hand from contaminating the brass when you handle the vent. A spray can of clear gloss lacquer can be found at your local hardware store. Be sure the vent is completely dry before re-installing.