

Sculpt Nouveau Metal Finishes and Patinas Maintenance Instructions

Careful inspection of an outdoor bronze should occur at least twice a year. Look closely at the areas where dirt is able to accumulate as this is where deterioration will originate. The sculpture should be cleaned and waxed every six months. Not maintaining the bronze on a regular schedule, using an inferior wax, or using oil will result in surface failure.

It is advisable to maintain a record log, have a person trained in the inspection process and maintenance techniques, and have adequate supplies and equipment on hand to do the job.

Supply list:

1. Non-ionic soap (this could be Ivory Dish Soap).
2. Hose (long enough to reach the sculpture for complete rinsing).
3. Brushes (soft white wash brush and toothbrush).
4. Scotch Brite Pad (fine, white in color).
5. Rubber Gloves.
6. Clean towels (lint free, terry cloth).
7. Sculpt Nouveau clear Wax for bronze.
8. 5 Gallon bucket. Procedure:
 1. Fill the bucket with water adding one to three ounces of Ivory Dish Soap per gallon of water.
 2. Using the soap and water mix, scrub gently but freely with brushes to remove all deposits. Take care not to damage the wax and lacquer coating by scrubbing too hard.
 3. Using the hose, rinse completely.
 4. Dry with the clean, lint free towels.
 5. Apply a new layer of wax. This wax will improve the appearance of the bronze and extend the protection of the patina and lacquer finish.

Wax Application:

1. Apply the wax to a completely dry bronze surface under dry conditions. Otherwise there is a risk of trapping moisture which will cause a white film to appear. If this does occur, it may be treated by applying mineral spirits or turpentine with a soft rag or brush. Another technique is to heat the surface using a heat gun or hair dryer. When the cloudiness has been removed start the wax process again.
2. Apply the wax with a soft cloth or brush, depending on the surface. If a brush is used, wipe softly before the wax hardens to remove any ridges.
3. Let the wax set up for about 30 minutes. Less time will be required if the temperature is high.
4. Buff with a lint free towel. Buffing will help compact the wax, making a dense surface.
5. Applying a second coat is optional. If a second coat is applied, wait six hours for the first layer to fully cure.

