



# **MATERIAL INFORMATION + CARE AND CLEANING MAINTENANCE OF MERWE ZINC BASINS**

## **ZINC Material Information**

### **Why zinc?**

Zinc is a metal with a number of characteristics that make it an ideal choice for use in the bathroom. Zinc's natural properties provide years of virtually maintenance-free use. In addition, zinc's blue-grey and brown patina blends beautifully with most building materials and surroundings. Zinc is nonporous, anti-microbial and antibacterial. It has a smooth surface that is easy to clean and maintain.

### **How will it wear?**

Zinc is a living alloy. It will respond to its environment. Changes in the hue of the basin will happen naturally with use. A patina, or darkening, will occur over time. Keep in mind that while soaps, oils and salts may make a mark on the basin, because these metals are non-porous, it is virtually stain resistant. Mark that do appear, fade and blend over time.

### **What is a patina?**

A patina is a tarnish produced by chemical processes that forms on the surface of many types of metals. When exposed to the elements, a coating of various chemical compounds, such as oxides and carbonates form on the surface. A patina showing rich shades of browns and greys can take decades to acquire. Our Zinc basins are pre-patinated so they leave our factory shades of grey. This leaves weathered appearance that will continue to change over time. These beautiful tones are the hallmark of zinc.

### **Is zinc environmentally friendly?**

There are few materials that are as ecologically friendly as zinc. Zinc is extremely energy efficient in its extraction and processing and is 100% recyclable without the loss of its unique physical and chemical properties, significantly reducing the need for new raw materials. In fact, over 30% of today's supply of zinc comes from the recycling process.



## Zinc Care and Maintenance

Zinc surfaces are relative easy to maintain

1. **Clean regularly with mild soap and water.** A basic daily or after use generally wipe down enough to maintain appearance and cleanliness.
2. **Do not use Harsh Chemical Cleaners.** This includes bleach products, products containing bleach and other chemical abrasives. These cleaners are too harsh and can cause damage.
3. **Zinc is a softer metal** than stainless steel. It resists scratches from general daily use, but the application of sharp edge directly on the surface can damage the basin.
4. **Avoid Acidic Materials.** Do not use cleaners with acid, with chemicals such as lemon, lime or orange. These acids can damage the patina on the basin permanently. Avoid Citrus-base cleaners like Orange Power.
5. Allow your Merwe basin to **Develop Character**- Zinc can take up to a year to acquire the blue-grey hue. Zinc undergoes a natural aging oxidation process and forms a unique tarnish with age called a patina.
6. Merwe enhanced the process in the factory by apply a patina and thereafter treated the Zinc with a layer of Natural Beeswax Polish. If the basin becomes dull, every once in a while please do the following:
  - Rub the basin lightly with Hobby Steelwool (super fine).
  - Wipe the surface clean with a cloth.
  - Fill the basin up with hot tap water and let it drain after about two minutes
  - Apply natural Kiwi wax to the interior and let the basin cool down.
  - Buff the surface back to a shine with a soft cloth.