



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. A white powdery deposit will form together with 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 does 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. Best to dry after use.
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 underg-oes a natural aging oxidation process and forms a unique tarnish with age called a patina. However routine maintenance is required.
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 or white, 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.