

## Copper Polishing

Copper will tarnish (oxidize). Sometimes the patina from oxidizing can have a pleasing appearance and many people prefer the look to shiny copper. If you prefer to keep you copper shiny, here are a few methods to use for bringing back the shine. You will notice that most of these use acid in some form. It's the acid in the tomato juice and lemon doing the work.

If you have one of my copper leaves that has been flame colored, do not try to polish it. The flaming stabilizes the copper surface and the leaves have been coated with a lacquer and should be stable. Exposing it to cleaning might damage the color.

Some of my chains have also been lacquer coated, but eventually the lacquer will wear off and oxidation will happen. You might wish to use steel wool to remove the remaining lacquer and polish as described below or let it oxidize to an warm copper patina. ~ Jim Rienhardt, Originnovation

The following seven methods are from <http://www.wikihow.com/Clean-Copper>

**Method 1: Vinegar And Salt Method** Table salt and vinegar combinations reduce oxidization on copper.

Pour vinegar and salt over the copper.  
Rub in. Keep rubbing to remove any tarnishing and grime.  
Rinse off with water.  
Polish up with a clean, soft, dry cloth.

**Method 2: Vinegar And Salt Method**

Place 1 tablespoon salt and 1 cup white vinegar into a large pot. Fill with water.  
Place the copper item into the pot.  
Bring to a boil and continue boiling until the tarnish comes off.  
Remove item. Once cooled, wash with soap in hot water. Rinse and dry.

**Method 3: Lemon Method** You can clean tarnish off copper by using lemons.

Cut two lemons in halves.  
Rub over the tarnished areas until removed. If you want, add salt to the lemon half.  
Rinse and polish.

**Method 4: Lemon And Salt Method**

Squeeze lemon juice from one lemon.  
Add salt and mix to form a paste.  
Rub the paste over the copper with a soft cloth.  
Rinse off with warm water and polish. Polish with beeswax for a lasting shine.

**Method 5 : Salt, Vinegar And Flour Method**

Place 1 tablespoon of salt in 1 cup of white vinegar.  
Make a paste by adding flour gradually. Mix together well.  
Apply the paste to the copper and smear over tarnished areas.  
Leave for 15 minutes to one hour.  
Rinse with warm water and polish.

**Method 6: Ketchup Method (tomato juice also works)** Believe it or not, ketchup is excellent for removing oxidation from copper. This method is probably better for small areas due to the mess.

Add the ketchup in a light to moderate film.  
Let it sit for a few minutes.  
Rub vigorously with a non-scratch pad.  
Wash away. Try it on a penny to see if it works.

#### **Method 7: Sulfamic Method**

This method is best used with oxidized/tarnished copper, where the copper is the only material of the piece being cleaned. Other metal that may be making up the material may become tarnished and/or pitted from the sulfamic wash.

Using rubber gloves, mix sulfamic acid and water to a concentration that is ample for the piece you plan on cleaning. Directions for volume and mixture rates can be obtained on the sulfamic packaging.

Dip the copper portion of the product into the solution.

Once the solution stops bubbling, remove the product and rinse thoroughly.

Air dry in a cool place. The result will be a brightened copper product

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**Here is another one. This also works with silver.**

Place aluminum foil in the bottom of a glass bowl (or glass cake pan), or use an aluminum pie plate. Pour boiling water into the container and add 1 to 2 tablespoons of salt. The hot water allows for a greater concentration of salt and a faster reaction. Soak your copper (or silver, but not both at the same time) until the tarnish is removed. The more severe the tarnish the longer it will take. Rinse and dry the jewelry after removing from the salt bath. **Caution! Keep your fingers out of the boiling water!**

**TARN-X.** This commercial cleaner is a strong acid. It works well, but is nasty stuff. There are also many other commercially available clears specifically for copper.

#### **Tips**

Keep decorative copper items dusted regularly to prevent grime build-up. Use a cold, damp cloth for dusting.

Store copper and silver in anti-tarnish bags or wrapped in tarnish preventive cloth. Do not store silver and copper together.

The logo for Originnovation features the word "Originnovation" in a large, red, ornate script font. The letters are highly decorative with flourishes and swirls. A small red star is positioned above the final 'n'. Below the main text, the words "Innovative Original Design" are written in a smaller, black, serif font. At the bottom, the website address "http://originnovation.com" is displayed in a black, sans-serif font.

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