

Care and Maintenance

Cantu Bathroom & Hardware LTD.

Before you make a decision...

All decorative plumbing and hardware have specific care and maintenance instructions. Before rushing into a purchase decision we recommend you consider the following:

- How much time and effort will this item need?
- Who will the primary users be?
- Where in the house will you place it and is it easy to access?
- How is the climate in your area?
- Who will be responsible for maintenance?

Our staff can help you address those considerations and ensure you make the best choice.

Finishes for a lifetime

Finish is the surface we see and touch, and the one you select will have an effect on the durability and utility of the product. This means that the amount of work needed to maintain the hardware and fixtures will depend on the type of finish you choose. The atmosphere, light, water, chemicals and, of course, the use of the product itself generate an impact that varies from one finish to another.

Ask our staff for advice to make sure you pick the one that best enhances the design while providing long-term endurance. They will guide you through the performance characteristics of the various finishes as well as the maintenance needs.

Cleaning & Caring for Door and Cabinet Hardware & Metallic Plumbing Finishes	
Products	Guidance
Coated Finishes	Clean with mild non-abrasive liquid detergent and water
	Avoid contact with uncured paint, thinners, acids, solvents and chemicals
	Maintain by applying a non-abrasive polymer-based wax to protect the coating.
	Apply monthly to exterior hardware. Apply two times a month in coastal areas.
	If scratched or finish deteriorates, have the hardware professionally refinished.
PDV Finishes	Clean with mild, non-abrasive liquid detergent and water.
	Avoid contact with uncured paint, thinners, acids, solvents, glue, stain and chemicals.
Coated Oil Rubbed Bronze	Clean with mild non-abrasive liquid detergent and water.
	Avoid contact with uncured paint, thinners, acids, solvents, glue, stain and chemicals
	Maintain by applying a non-abrasive polymer-based wax to protect the coating
Uncoated Oil Rubbed Bronze	After installation, treat the hardware with a generous coating of furniture wax.
Bronze and Silicon Bronze	Clean with a mild liquid detergent and water.
	Never use ammonia-based cleaning products, harsh chemicals, bleach or abrasive cleaners.
	To restore patina, gently rub with a Scotch Brite or similar pad and then apply a generous coating of high-quality furniture wax.
Chrome Finishes	Clean with a mild liquid detergent.
	Never use abrasive or chemical-based cleaners.
Vintage or Weathered Finishes	Keep dry. Use a soft cloth to wipe off moisture.
	Apply a light coating of high quality furniture wax.
Gold Finishes	Gold is soft and can scratch easily. To help prevent scratching regularly clean with warm water and dry fixtures with a chamois.

Cleaning & Caring for Door Hardware	
Products	Guidance
Exterior Locks	Spray springs and moving parts of the lock with white lithium grease every six months or more frequently if they do not operate smoothly.
	Spray the keyway of the cylinder lightly with graphite at the first sign of sticking. Use a drop cloth to avoid stains from drips. A little goes a long way.
	Lubricate exterior locks by opening the door, pushing in the protruding latch and spraying lightly with graphite.
Interior Latches and Locks	Lightly spray springs and moving parts of the latch or lock with white lithium grease every six months or more frequently if they don't operate smoothly.
	Lubricate interior locks by opening the door, pushing in the protruding latch and spraying lightly with graphite.
Hinges	Push the hinge pin up to the first knuckle. DO NOT completely remove it. Coat with a light spray of lithium grease annually or more frequently if the hinge squeaks.

Cleaning & Caring for Plumbing Fixtures	
Products	Guidance
Ceramic and Vitreous China	Clean with mild liquid non-abrasive detergent.
	Avoid abrasive or harsh chemical cleaners or abrasive pads.
	Avoid using Soft Scrub type cleaners regularly.
Ceramic Weather Glazes	They change over time. crazing is a part of the natural changing process.
	Clean with a mild liquid non-abrasive detergent.
	Never use abrasive pads, chlorine or harsh chemicals.
Fire Clay	Clean with non-abrasive cleaners.
	Remove stubborn stains with a mild abrasive such as Soft Scrub.
	Never use abrasive pads, chlorine or harsh chemicals.
Granite Polymers, Silicate Quartz Polymers	Rinse and wipe with a clean soft cloth after each use to eliminate water spots, stains and soap film.
	Use a 50-50 solution of water and bleach to remove stubborn stains.
	Do not use straight bleach, ammonia, caustic soda solutions, abrasive cleaning agents, steel wool or scouring pads.
	Purchase sink grid to avoid potential scratches.
Porcelain Enamel	Clean with mild non-abrasive cleaners.
	Purchase a sink grid to avoid potential scratches.
	Do not use abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, chlorine bleach or harsh chemicals to clean.
Acrylic	Clean with a mild, diluted dishwashing liquid.
	Do not use abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, chlorine bleach or harsh chemicals to clean.
Terrazzo	Clean stains immediately. Remove grease with solvents such as carbon tetrachloride.
	Treat stain with household ammonia, hydrogen peroxide or lemon juices.
Cast Iron	Periodically clean with a mild abrasive cleaner such as Soft Scrub. Remove stubborn stains with a soft nylon scrubber. Do not use steel wool, metal brushes scrapers or abrasive sponge pads.

Cleaning & Caring for Plumbing Fixtures	
Products	Guidance
Satin Stainless Steel	Wipe after each use with a soft cloth.
	Do not use abrasive cleaners, scouring pads or steel wool.
	Letting cleaning agents sit in the sink for long periods of time could stain the sink.
	Purchase a sink grid to protect the bottom.
	Minor scratches can be removed using a Scotch Brite Pad with a deep cleaning agent.
Polished Stainless Steel	Clean with a mild detergent and soft cloth/sponge.
	Do not use abrasive scouring pads (Scotch Brite) or steel wool, chlorine bleach, harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
Copper Sinks and Tubs	Use soap and water to clean sinks with factory baked on coatings. Do not use copper polish. Uncoated sinks can be polished or left to patina.
Glass Basins	Do not pour scalding water in basin.
	Clean with ammonia-free glass cleaner.
Soak dispenser	Soak dispenser in hot water to loosen old soap.
Toilet Seats	Do not use abrasive cleaners, detergents or products in aerosol cans.
	Clean painted wooden seats with mild dishwashing liquid.
Solid Surfacing Materials	Use an ammonia-based cleaner for most stains.
	Use an abrasive cleaner and a Scotch Brite pad to remove more difficult stains.
	Repair minor scratches with 18-22 grit fine sandpaper and restore finish with an abrasive cleaner and Scotch Brite Pad.
Wood Sinks and Tubs	Dry with a clean cloth after each use to help eliminate the chance of dirt and lime buildup. Occasionally use a wax or polish in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Do not let water pool because it could damage the wood and eventually break the seal. Some chemicals used to clean faucets and countertops can be harmful to wood products.
Cultured Marble, Granite and Onyx	Clean with a liquid detergent. Restore dull surfaces using a liquid cleaning compound followed by a light application of wax.
	Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring pads, scrapers or sandpaper.
	Remove difficult stains and build ups with turpentine, denatured alcohol or paint thinner.
Gold Sinks	Use a mild soap (Ivory) and dry with a soft cloth or chamois.
	Avoid polishes because they can scratch the plating.
	Do not scrub the sink.
	Do not use ammonia-based or abrasive cleaners.
	A plated finish on gold-plated brass sinks can erode over time.

Caring for Plumbing Parts and Fixtures - Read more -	
Parts	Guidance
Ceramic Disc Cartridges	Turn on the hot and cold sides of faucets that are not regularly used for 60 seconds.
	Do not apply extreme force on the handles to stop dripping.
Toilets	Clean the inside of the toilet tank annually to prevent scum buildup. Do not use in-tank cleaners in your toilet. Products containing chlorine can seriously damage fittings in the tank.
	Adjust toilet components (fill / flush valves) according to manufacturers' recommendations to maintain full flush performance.
	Use soft, dampened sponge or cloth. Never use an abrasive material such as a brush or scouring pad to clean surfaces.
	If you live in a hard water area, make certain that the holes in the toilet rim are kept clean to ensure proper bowl flushing.
Supply Stops	Turn the stops off and on every few months to ensure problem-free performance.
Spout Aerators	Close drain prior to cleaning (to avoid losing parts).
	Unscrew aerator and gently scrub the inside part to loosen any foreign materials. Rinse with water and screw the aerator back into the spout. Turn on the water slowly to test for leaks. If it leaks, tighten the aerator until leaking stops
	Exercise care to prevent scratching or bending the aerator with pliers.
Pressure Balanced and Tub/ Shower Valves	It is normal for a minimal amount of water to drip from the shower head after shutting the water off. If water drips for longer than three minutes, most likely one of two problems have occurred. The mechanical stop may not be set properly or the cartridge needs replacing.
	If the valve has a filter, remove and clean it in accordance with manufacturer directions.
	In hard water locations, remove the pressure balancing cartridge and soak it in white vinegar.
Thermostatic Valves	Clean filters annually (follow manufacturer cleaning recommendations).
	Remove mineral deposits by soaking the cartridge in white vinegar for several hours then re-install.
Air Baths	The noise heard when the bath jets are activated is the result of the extreme action of the water and not from the operation of the motor. To reduce noise levels, add a small amount of foaming bath powder. The powder serves as an insulator and can help maintain water temperature.
	It is normal to feel cool air coming from jets when you sit next to them. This is due to convection. To avoid this occurrence, turn the bath on five minutes before filling it with water so that the motor is warm when entering the bath.
	If the bath is used regularly and correctly (the purge cycle is always used), the bath needs quarterly maintenance. If the bath is used sporadically or the purge cycle is neglected, monthly maintenance is required.
	Clean the tub: Close the drain. Pour 1 quart of white vinegar into the bath. Fill the bath with very hot water 4 inches above the jets and let stand for two to four hours. Turn the jets on and off at 15-second intervals six times. Empty the tub and refill with clean water. Repeat the on-off procedure two to three times. Drain the bath.
Jetted Tubs	Clean the circulation system with a jetted tub cleaner every two to three weeks.
Garbage Disposers	Always run cold water when grinding.
	Do not attempt to grind clam, mussel or oyster shells, corn husks, artichoke leaves or other foods with high fiber contents. Grinding small bones, ice and egg shells help clean the disposer, but most disposers are self-cleaning.
Hot Water Dispenser	Always disconnect the power before performing any maintenance on the unit.
	Regularly replace water filters according to manufacturers' recommendations.
	Most dispensers have a thermostat to allow you to adjust the temperature of the water.
	Extremely hot water may result in severe burns.
	Only use mild cleaners without abrasives to clean the faucet.
Annually inspect the tank and water lines for signs of leakage.	
Steam Generators	Be proactive by adding an auto drain at the time of purchase if one is not included as standard equipment. The device drains water completely out of the unit at the conclusion of the bath. It also helps to remove debris and sediment.
Point of Use Water Systems	Follow manufacturer recommendations for filter replacement.