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THINK ZINC

BESPOKE ZINC SURFACES



THE LOOK

Zinc worktops have a naturally warm, matte-grey appearance with subtle surface variations that evolve over time. Each piece has its own character, often showing fine lines, natural marks, or tonal differences.

Over time, your zinc will develop a soft patina: a slightly darker, more matte finish that adds depth and character. This ageing process is part of zinc's charm and what gives it a timeless, lived-in look.

REACTIVITY

Zinc is a reactive metal, meaning it will respond to contact with certain substances. Here's what to expect:

- Acidic foods (like lemon juice, vinegar, wine, or tomato) can cause light spots or marks.
- Harsh chemicals or cleaning agents (like bleach or oven cleaners) can damage the surface.
- Water marks may form if water is left to pool and evaporate.
- Fingerprints and smudges are normal and will blend in as the patina develops.

These reactions are cosmetic and don't affect the function of the worktop. With regular use, marks blend into the overall finish, enhancing the aged appearance.

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BENEFITS OF ZINC

- Natural patina: Zinc gets more beautiful over time, developing a rich, mellow look.
- Antibacterial surface: Zinc naturally inhibits bacterial growth, making it a hygienic choice.
- Eco-friendly: Zinc is fully recyclable and has a lower environmental impact than many other metals.
- Custom appearance: Each piece is unique, offering a distinctive finish that stands out from standard materials.
- Repairable: Minor marks and oxidation can often be buffed out or blended in with deeper cleaning.

DAILY CLEANING

- Use a soft cloth or sponge with warm water and mild soap.
- Wipe spills promptly, especially acidic substances.
- Dry thoroughly after cleaning to prevent water spots.
- Avoid abrasive pads or cleaners, which can scratch the surface.

With regular gentle cleaning, the patina will develop evenly and beautifully.



OUTDOOR USE

Zinc is a fantastic material for outdoor use due to its naturally weather-resistant properties. Over time, it develops a protective patina; this evolving finish not only adds character but also serves as a durable barrier against corrosion.

To keep your outdoor zinc worktop looking its best:

- Clean regularly with mild soap and warm water to remove surface dirt and environmental buildup.
- Let the zinc age gracefully. Outdoor zinc will naturally darken and develop a more rugged appearance – this is part of its charm and resilience.
- If desired, you can apply a specialist wax or beeswax seasonally to help repel moisture and slow patination, though this is optional.

Zinc's non-porous surface makes it hygienic and easy to maintain, even outside. Unlike other metals, it won't rust, and unlike wood or stone, it doesn't crack or degrade easily with exposure to the weather. These properties make zinc a superb and low-maintenance choice for outdoor kitchens, bars, and workspaces.



DEEP CLEANING & OXIDATION

Occasionally, you may want to refresh your worktop's appearance or even out patina:

- Use a non-abrasive metal cleaner designed for zinc.
- Fine scouring pads can be used to gently buff out marks; always test in an inconspicuous area first and follow the grain.
- For stubborn stains or oxidised patches, light polishing with beeswax or metal-specific wax can help restore a consistent finish and protect the surface.
- Heavy areas of oxidation, which will appear white and powdery, can be removed using a paste made of bicarbonate of soda and water. This should be wiped away with a damp cloth and dried thoroughly.

Be aware that aggressive cleaning will strip the natural patina—only do this if you want a “reset” to a cleaner, newer appearance.



DISCLAIMER

Due to the natural and reactive qualities of zinc, we cannot predict exactly how the surface will respond to contact with different substances or environments. While we take great care to advise on best practices, Think Zinc cannot accept responsibility for unexpected reactions, marks, or changes that may occur as a result of everyday use or exposure to materials. However, we are always happy to offer guidance and, where possible, help restore the surface. Please note that any restoration work may be subject to a call-out fee.