## Mirror Image

## Coppertubs

There are different processes used to manufacture copper sinks which affect the quality of the finished product. Automated processes use machines which bend the copper to create the sink, often leaving out important details. Hammered copper sinks, on the other hand, are made by hand so that each part of the sink is constructed to design specifications. This provides a superior finish.

Many people make the assumption that a copper sink is difficult to care for and high maintenance. While a copper sink is very unique and different than a stainless or porcelain sink, it is not any more difficult to maintain. You clean your porcelain sink, right? You get food and build up in your stainless sink, right? The same goes for copper. There are, however, some tips and extra steps that you can take with copper that make cleaning and care a little easier. But, before we get into the details about care, it's important to review the nature of copper. Copper is a very different material than those used in most sinks and has some very unique qualities.



<u>Ease of Cleaning</u> - Worried that it will take forever to keep your new copper bathtub or sink clean? You're in luck. Copper is relatively simple to take care of. In fact, you only have to use non-abrasive soaps and detergents mixed with water to wipe off any residue. To keep your copper from spotting or staining, stay away from acidic or harsh cleansers, as well as abrasive sponges and scrubbers.

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- Changing Patina One of the most exciting aspects of copper is that it's a living material. Over time, the patina, or outside appearance, will change. Usually, copper becomes slightly deeper in color. This is to be expected, and is one of the reasons that so many people desire copper for their bathtubs, sinks, faucets and more.
- The first step is to clean your copper sink regularly. When cleaning your sink, make sure to use a mild soap, warm water, and a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid abrasive chemical cleaners, metal scrubbing pads, or steel wool.
- All copper sinks and baths should be washed with warm water, mild dish soap, and
  a soft sponge. Dry your sink after cleaning or using it to prevent mineral deposits and
  green spotting. If you want to keep your polished sink shiny, apply a copper cleaner
  and wax at least every six weeks.
- **Rub a coat** of old-fashioned furniture wax, beeswax or **copper** wax into the surface of the **sink** to clean it; the wax helps slow down the patina development. Use a soft cloth to apply the wax, rubbing it in with a circular motion. Use the wax every time you clean the **sink** for best results.



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