

## **CARING FOR COPPER FOUNTAIN COMPONENTS**

Copper components like spill plates and water tubes are loved by many, yet consumers have different tastes regarding the way copper likes to turn green when exposed to oxygen and moisture. Many consider the green patina effect of copper to add beauty. Others prefer the bright, machined copper color. If you prefer the copper color, here are some guidelines you can follow:

### **SEALING THE COPPER**

While your copper still has its shiny, original color you can seal it with a good clear sealer or paint which adheres to metal. A sealer like Henri Studio's CS22 (<https://www.store.henristudio.com/CS22-p/cs22.htm>) aerosol is a proven solution. Sealing can be repeated every year or so as needed to protect and brighten the copper.

### **REMOVING THE GREEN PATINA**

If your copper has been exposed to the elements for a while and has started to go green, you will want to use a light acid like lemon juice or vinegar. Apply it to a rag and then wrap the rag around the copper piece. Once the acid soaks into the green patina, rub the rag against the copper piece to loosen and wipe the green away. This may take more than one application. Some people have success mixing baking soda with vinegar in order to form a reactive paste which they apply to the copper and then scrub off.

Other consumers have used acetone on the copper. If you try this solvent, please read the safety instructions and especially protect your hands when using.

### **PROTECT YOUR FOUNTAIN FINISH**

If you use acids or solvents to clean copper pieces which are still attached to your fountain, do not let any of these chemicals come in contact with the fountain's stained or painted finish. Acids and acetone can harm Henri finishes. If you cannot remove the copper from the fountain before cleaning, protect the fountain with towels, etc. in order to keep any of the acids or chemicals from touching the rest of the fountain.

And then, once your copper is as clean as you would like, you can make sure it is dry and apply a clear paint as above to preserve your good cleaning work.