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Maintenance and Cleaning of Cast Bronze & Aluminum Signage

Cast bronze and aluminum parts produced by Port City Architectural Signage have a high gloss baked enamel urethane clear-coat applied. Provided that this protective barrier is not damaged during the installation process, vandalism, or from improper handling, many years of service can be expected with little to no maintenance required.

Periodic cleaning is recommended for products that are exposed to excessive dirt and dust, fertilizers or standing water. When cleaning, use a mild detergent with a soft cloth or sponge. Wiping motions should follow the grain of the finish to minimize the visual effect of any minor surface scratching of the clear-coat. Never use strong chemicals, abrasives or cleaning solutions; damage to the protective coating will result. Mishandling that compromise the protective coating will accelerate the aging process and will void the 1-year finish warranty.

Things to Consider when Choosing Between Bronze and Aluminum

Red Bronze is made of 85% copper, which gives the metal a red/orange appearance when polished. This bronze alloy out performs most metals in harsh environments. Over time the metal surface will darken and begin to look aged. When the clear-coat barrier eventually wears down, a chemical patina may form on the surface of the marker with a wide range of effects depending on what it is exposed to. This natural patina will enhance the aged look of the bronze and actually further protect the object if left intact. Bronze markers can be refinished and brought back to their original luster for a fraction of the original cost. Call Port City Architectural Signage about obtaining a cost to refinish your cast aluminum or bronze plaques and markers.

Aluminum castings will not rust, but will oxidize over time. Depending on the environment and exposure, castings can develop a white, chalk like residue, which will affect the finish. It is important to carefully consider all the elements your product will be exposed to before making a final decision. Both bronze and aluminum are superior materials when installed in the proper environment. Aluminum is a less expensive material and weighs about one-third of bronze.

Engraved Recycled Plastic (HDPE)

Engraved Recycled Plastic is a UV stable and highly durable sign material. By removing the top layer of the material with a router bit, the core color is exposed. This process is limited to the color combination of material that is available. Our special urethane resins allow us to add custom colors by filling the recessed areas of your sign. HDPE recycled plastic is an economical, durable material that can be customized for almost any application needed.



Bronze Castings

Aluminum Castings

HDPE

The samples above show how each material has aged over time when exposed to extreme in field conditions. The effects shown above were documented over a 3 year period. The markers were all exposed to the same conditions on a golf course (coastal region, in ground application, standing water, salt water, fertilizers, golf cart & foot traffic, lawn maintenance equipment, etc.) While bronze has darkened it remains pristine, the aluminum has started to oxidize and a white chalk -like powder has started to develop on the metal surface. The HDPE material had no visible effects.