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SP459-M Household Cleaning - Brass and Copper

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

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Brass and Copper

Most metal polishes for sale today help stop metals from tarnishing, or turning a dark color. They help keep metals shiny as well as cleaning off the tarnish.

- Choose the kind of polish made for cleaning the type of metal you need to clean.
- Wash the object in warm, soapy water. Rinse.
- Dry well.
- Polish according to the product directions.
- Rub or wash away all the polish. Any polish left on the object can cause the object to tarnish again quicker.

- Slightly tarnished metals can be cleaned with a homemade paste made of equal parts of salt, vinegar and flour.
- Rub on with a soft cloth, rinse and buff.
- For hard to remove stains on brass or copper, rub with salt and vinegar or lemon juice.
- To keep outdoor brass bright, rub with a thin coat of paste wax after polishing.
- To keep indoor brass bright, rub with lemon oil.



Prepared by Martha Keel, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer
Sciences – Housing and Environmental Health.

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and county governments cooperating in furtherance of Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

Agricultural Extension Service, Charles L. Norman, Dean