



Gold

Gold is a precious metal that is so soft and costly in its pure 24 karat form that it is only used as an alloy, 14 or 18 karats, usually for episcopal jewelry. Gold plate, a microscopic layer of gold electrically bonded to a base metal such as brass or sterling, is frequently used to line the interiors of chalices, patens and ciboria, and to finish the outside of vessels to provide a rich gold color.

Cleaning Gold Appointments

WASH Wash with mild detergent and water after each use. Do not immerse hollow vessels and appointments. Rinse and dry with a soft cotton cloth.

POLISH Never use abrasive cloth or polish on gold surfaces. Gold plate is very soft and the polish will only scratch and remove excessive amounts of this precious metal. If your piece is still discolored after washing, the gold plate is probably worn through so that brass base metal is being exposed. These articles should be professionally refurbished — learn about the Almy Refurbishing Service below.

Glass

Glass cruets and decanters for wine and water can in time become stained and cloudy looking. To remove stains on glass interiors, pour a small amount of raw rice, unpopped popcorn kernels or crushed ice into the vessel. Add white vinegar and water. Swirl around to allow rice, corn or ice to rub against glass surface. Allow this solution to remain for a day or two, swirling occasionally. If stains persist, repeat this procedure with more aggressive abrasives: small stainless steel ball bearings and a denture cleaner like Polident with water. Remove abrasives and cleaning solution. When stains are removed, rinse with bleach, then wash with detergent, hot water and bottle brush, then rinse with hot water and dry.

Liquid Candles

CARBON BUILD-UP ON WICKS. This can be caused by burning the candle with wicks set at higher-than-recommended height or by cutting the wicks. To remove carbon wet a paper towel with a little KerryLiquid and wipe the carbon from the wick. Reset wicks to 1/8" high. Never cut wicks.

TARNISHED OR DISCOLORED BRASS FOLLOWER TOPS. See "Cleaning Brass & Bronze Appointments" above.

DISCOLORED NYLON CANDLES AND TOPS. Empty candles of KerryLiquid and remove old wicks. Wash the nylon candle sections in hot water and detergent — the organic citrus cleanser in the Almy "Candle Cleaning Kit" does a great job. If the candle parts still have some stubborn stains, rub them with a fine Scotchbrite pad and that will finish the job of cleaning them.

Remove Wax from Candlesticks, Candelabra & Torches

PREVENT WAX DRIPS Using Almy Liquid Candles will completely eliminate that problem! Where wax candles are still used, you should use followers with your candles to prevent drips — followers for any size candle are available from Almy. Another preventive measure to take before burning candles is to lightly spray the bobeche (drip pans) with Pam or a similar shortening product. The oil will prevent direct adhesion by the wax. As the wax builds up, wipe the entire bobeche with a clean, soft cloth and re-spray.

REMOVE WAX DRIPS Use a hair dryer or hot water, or place in a 250 degree oven to soften/melt wax. Use a soft cloth to wipe wax from the candlestick. Remove residue by rubbing with a soft cloth and "Almy Wax Remover" which will dissolve the remaining wax.

Almy Metal Care Products

We have assembled a useful line of care products that we use in our own shop. See Almy catalogs, or visit almy.com to buy cleansers, polishes and many other proven solutions to the problem of keeping church metal ware clean and inspirational.



Almy Metal Ware Refurbishing Service

When all else fails, send it to the people who made it. Our artisans take pride in restoring your cherished vessels and appointments to their "Sunday best". Call or visit almy.com/metalrepair to learn more.



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Caring For Sacred Vessels and Appointments



Congratulations on your purchase of an Almy appointment. It is carefully hand made from the finest traditional materials and should grace your church for many years to come. The most effective way to preserve the beauty and function of your appointments is to follow a regular program of cleaning and preventive care. We hope these suggestions will help.



General Recommendations

Here are simple care suggestions that will extend the life and beauty of all your metal appointments and vessels. Follow them and the additional guidelines applicable to the metal used to make your articles.

- ▶ Wear clean cotton gloves or rubber gloves whenever possible when you handle metal items. This will prevent tarnish or damage to lacquer coatings often caused by fingerprints.
- ▶ Remove rings and other jewelry whenever you handle metal objects to prevent scratches.
- ▶ Wash any and all metal vessels and appointments regularly with warm water and a gentle detergent. Rinse with clean water and dry with a cotton cloth. Wash hollow communion vessels without immersing in water.
- ▶ To reduce the chance of damage to metal cruets and flacons do not let wine remain in them for long periods. Fill them just before the start of your service, then empty and wash them as soon as possible after the end of your service.
- ▶ Store silver or silver plate vessels in protective bags, with an anti-tarnish strip.

Care for Metals Used to Make Church Appointments and Vessels



Brass & Bronze

Brass and bronze are alloys of copper and zinc. Depending on the ratio of one element to the other, the color of these metals can range from a rich yellow-gold to a reddish brown hue. They are extremely durable and Almy uses both to make many appointments and fittings. Unless they are sealed with a protective lacquer coating, though, both are

apt to tarnish over time: sulfur dioxide in the air reacts with the copper in the alloy and forms dark unattractive finish that can range in color from green to black. Even if they are coated, small cracks or chips in the lacquer can admit moist acidic air; tarnish can form at that point and spread under the lacquer coating.

LACQUER COATED OR NOT? For many years manufacturers have finished brass and bronze items by spraying or dipping them in clear lacquer (or polyurethane) to protect them from air-borne acid and prevent tarnish. It is often very hard to tell whether an article is coated or not. If you are unsure, the best thing is to assume your piece is lacquer coated as that calls simply for washing. Only if washing does not restore the shine to your items should you then try polish to clean your article.

Cleaning Brass & Bronze Appointments

WASH Often, simply washing your articles as described in the General Recommendations will make them look much better. This is the only method recommended for lacquer coated items when the lacquer is in sound condition.

POLISH Brass polishes are compounds of fine abrasive particles in a paste that allows them to be spread on the article to be cleaned. They will scratch and damage the appearance of lacquer coatings, so they should only be used on surfaces where washing has not been effective or that that you know are un-lacquered. If washing did not work but you are unsure about lacquer coating, try polish on a small part of the surface. If it is effective, you may assume your item is un-lacquered and follow the manufacturer's instructions for correct use of the polish. We strongly recommend Almy "Wow!" metal polish for both brass and silver: its light abrasive does a great job of cleaning and leaves a high polish finish on both metals. If you found that polish did not restore shine to your brass or bronze article, it is probably coated with damaged lacquer and tarnish has spread under the coating where neither washing nor polishing can remove it. These articles should be professionally refurbished — learn about the Almy Refurbishing Service below.



Silver

Silver is a precious metal element that appears in church metal ware in two forms: sterling silver and silver plate. Sterling is an alloy of at least 92.5% pure silver and a variety of other metals to improve durability. Silver plate is a microscopic layer of pure silver electrically bonded to an underlying base metal, usually brass. Silver is a beautiful metal most often used to make or finish communion vessels, but it is very prone to tarnish.

ARGENTIUM™ SILVER, A TARNISH-RESISTANT STERLING

A modern innovation in sterling production is the addition of the element germanium to the non-silver portion of the alloy to create Argentium sterling. This virtually eliminates the black tarnish that forms so readily on conventional sterling. Look for it when buying sterling jewelry or communion vessels.

Cleaning Silver Appointments

WASH Wash with mild detergent and water after each use. Do not immerse hollow vessels and appointments. Rinse and dry with a soft cotton cloth.

POLISHING CLOTH If light discoloration (tarnish) forms, wipe silver surface with a silver polishing cloth. These are pieces of flannel that are infused with a light polish and they do a wonderful job. Try Almy's "Metalware Polishing Cloth".

POLISH If tarnish has become quite dark, use a silver polish. Almy's "Wow!" is an excellent choice. If your piece is still discolored after polishing it is likely that it is silver plate that has been worn through, exposing the brass base metal. These articles should be professionally refurbished — learn about the Almy Refurbishing Service below.