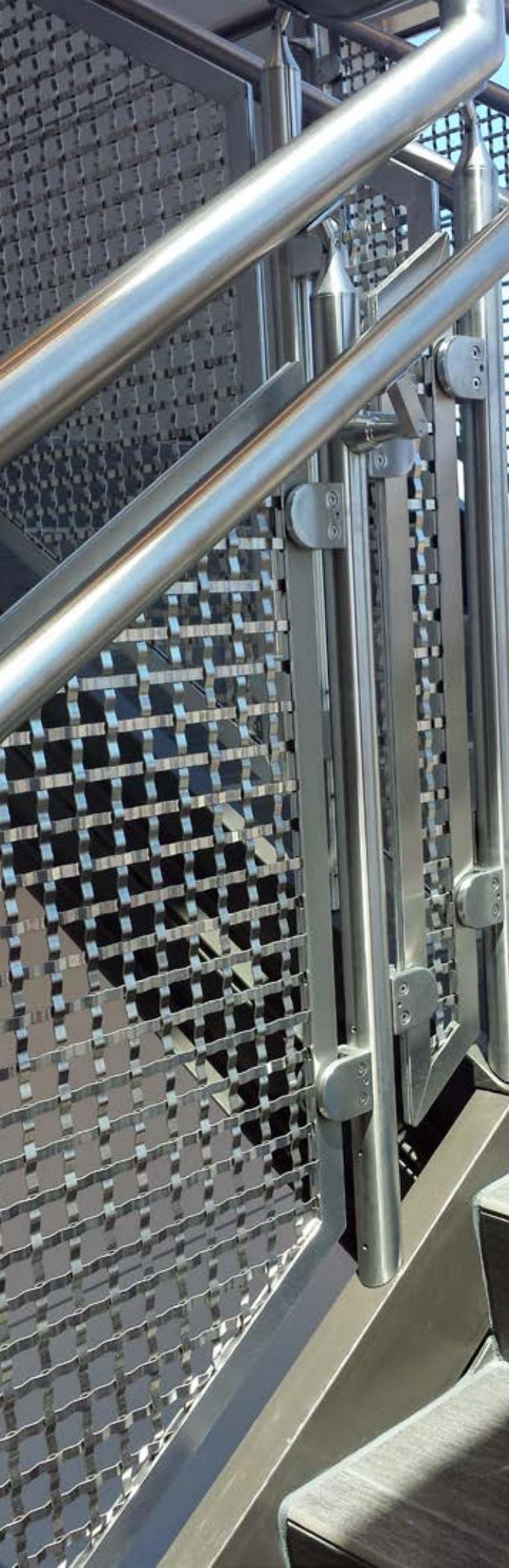




**BANKER**   
**CARE + MAINTENANCE**





# STAINLESS STEEL

## INTRODUCTION

Stainless steel mesh is most often chosen by architects and designers for its corrosion resistance and aesthetic appeal. Banker Wire offers both T304 and T316L stainless steel alloys. Maintaining its original appearance requires very little effort. For best performance, the surface of the mesh needs to be kept clear of non-stainless steel (iron) contamination and deposits from dirt and grime accumulated during normal handling and exposure to the elements.

## INITIAL CLEANING

Banker Wire architectural stainless steel wire mesh is wiped down before shipment to remove any visible surface oil accumulated during the weaving process. Once the shipment is received, or after further fabrication and handling, a final cleaning should be performed before installation to remove all surface contaminants. A recommended process for cleaning is to rinse the mesh with deionized/distilled water to remove any loose contaminants. Wash mesh using a soft cloth and deionized/distilled water containing a mild, environmentally safe multi-purpose cleaner with a detergent or 5% ammonia. If necessary, use a soft nylon brush to remove any stubborn stains. Rinse with clean cold water and allow to dry completely. If, non-stainless steel contamination is suspected, a citric acid or nitric acid passivation process should be considered to remove any existing "Free Iron" on the stainless steel surface.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Stainless steel woven wire mesh adds a long lasting and unique architectural design element to any project. The corrosion resistance that stainless steel offers can be reduced if the material is not cared for from time to time. For stainless steel to look and perform at its best, simple and regular care is required.

Environmental conditions and aesthetic standards will usually determine the frequency of cleaning required for the individual application. Other than end-user requirements, the best policy is to clean mesh when dirty to remove contaminants and restore the original appearance. To clean exterior applications, hot deionized/distilled water power washing with a multi-purpose cleaner can be used if water infiltration is not a concern. This is a common means of keeping railings and similar exterior applications attractive while minimizing costs. For interior applications use a clean soft cloth, either dry or damp, to remove surface contaminant build-up. Be sure to allow the mesh to dry completely.

**Note:** *Never use steel wool cleaning pads on stainless steel woven wire mesh. Cross contamination of the unalloyed "free iron" can result in brown rust stains on the stainless steel wire mesh.*

**We strongly recommend always using deionized/distilled water when cleaning stainless steel to prevent water spots.**



# POWDER COAT FINISH

A powder coated finish on wire mesh offers the ability to achieve nearly every color in the rainbow. To maintain the appearance of your powder coated wire mesh, regular maintenance is recommended. The amount of care and maintenance required depends on the use or exposure conditions.

Clean powder coated surfaces with clean warm water, using clean cloths or rags and soap (household cleaners which are sold in shops). Avoid using a power washer as the pressure may exceed the adhesion characteristics. Avoid harsh or abrasive cleaners and scouring substances. High gloss and dark colored surfaces may show fine scratching or swirl marks with hard scrubbing or abrasive cleaners. Low gloss or textured surfaces may hold viscous cleaners or pastes due to the surface topography.



# PLATED FINISH

Decorative plating brings out the true and unique visual texture of each piece of Banker Wire mesh. The wire mesh is woven in plain steel and is coated with either brass, nickel, or copper. Plated woven wire mesh is not meant to be used in an exterior application or where it can be exposed to excessive moisture. All plated wire mesh finishes are clear coated to protect the finish from oxidation. Care must be taken to protect the clear coat finish so that tarnishing does not occur.

Maintaining the lacquer finish can be done by regularly wiping the surfaces with a dry, soft cloth. Wipe the mesh firmly, but do not apply extreme pressure or rub too aggressively; this could cause heat to build up which may distort the finish. Do not use paper cloths as they tend to scratch the surface of the lacquer.

If the lacquer has dirt or grease on it, clean with a soft, damp cloth and very mild soap. Rinse with another soft, damp cloth and then allow the surface to dry. Once dry, lightly wipe with an additional dry, soft cloth to remove any leftover soap film.

When attempting to remove tape residue, try a mild soap first. If this does not remove the residue, lightly wipe the area with a soft cloth damp with mineral spirits. This is the only solvent that is mild enough to be safely used on lacquer and should only be used as a last resort.

Never use metal polish or abrasives of any kind to clean a lacquered surface as they will scratch the coating. Do not use commercial liquid cleaners. Most cleaners contain trace amounts of solvent, ammonia, or amines that can break down the coating. This breakdown can range from a slight distortion of the gloss to completely removing the coating from the substrate.



# US10B FINISH

The US10B finish applies to copper based alloys such as copper, bronze, and brass. Referred to as a “Natural” finish, there are three basic factors that will limit its life. Weather, wear and chemical exposure. A regular maintenance schedule must be put in place to prolong the life of the finish.

The US10B process creates a darkened oxide layer on the surface of the mesh material. Even at this darkened state, the material will continue to change over time, which is characteristic of copper based alloys. To prevent the darkened finish from changing, a standard lacquer finish is applied and is suitable for interior use only. The continued protection of the darkened finish therefore, is subject to the care of the lacquer finish.

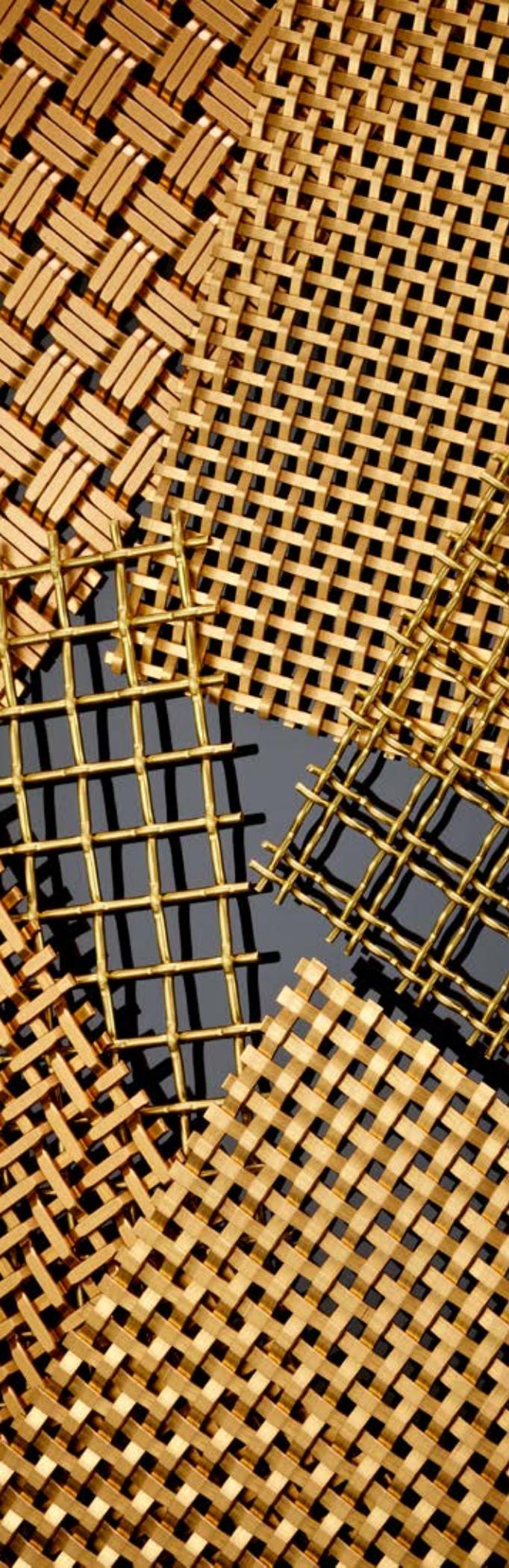
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As a preference, some people may want this natural oxidized finish to continue to change over time and therefore would specify that no lacquer finish be applied after the oxidation process. In this case, nothing more needs to be done to the material except for occasional wiping down using a soft damp cloth. Adding a very small amount of mineral oil, lemon oil, or paraffin oil will maintain the metallic shine. Environmental situations will determine how regularly the finish will need maintenance.



# US10A FINISH

The US10A finish applies to copper based alloys such as copper, bronze, and brass. There are three basic factors that will limit the finish's life. Weather, wear and chemical exposure. A regular maintenance schedule must be put in place to prolong the life of the finish.

The US10A finish physically removes the tarnish from the top layer of the bronze, brass, or, copper. Even with the tarnish removed, the material will continue to change over time, which is characteristic of copper based alloys. To prevent the finish from changing, a standard lacquer finish is applied and is suitable for interior use only. The continued protection of the finish therefore, is subject to the care of the lacquer finish.

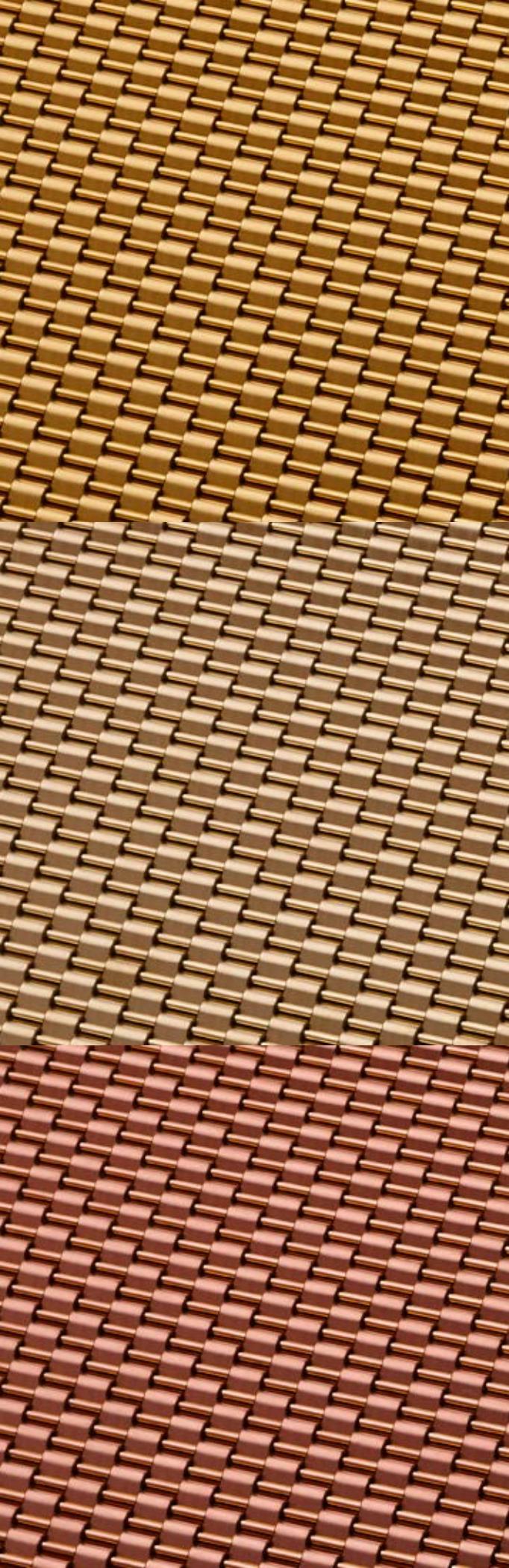
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# DECORATIVE PVD FINISH

Decorative PVD (Physical Vapor Deposition) is a thin film deposition process where a metallic solid is vaporized in a vacuum chamber and deposited onto a target surface as a coating. Using various metal compounds, a vast range of brilliant metallic color can be created and applied to stainless steel wire mesh.

It should be noted that vapor particulate will be present on the wire mesh following the completed Decorative PVD process. A final cleaning of the material should be considered prior to installation.

To clean and maintain stainless steel wire mesh with a Decorative PVD Finish:

1. Use a clean sponge and wash with a solution of six (6) ounces of Dawn® dishwashing liquid to one (1) gallon of warm deionized/distilled water.
2. Rinse the wire mesh with deionized/distilled water to prevent water spots.
3. Dry thoroughly using chamois, pressurized air, and/or other non-abrasive methods to remove all moisture within the weave as well as the mesh decorative surface

**We strongly recommend always using deionized/distilled water when cleaning stainless steel Decorative PVD finished wire mesh to prevent water spots.**