

TAKING CARE OF THE BRASS CABINET

studioilse

MADE TO LAST

Ilse Crawford's Brass Cabinet is designed for life in every sense of the word. Handmade in the UK by Christopher Bell, the brass and walnut will develop a beautiful patina over time. Careful and gentle maintenance will complement this process to ensure that the cabinet has a life for many generations to come.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

For the brass:

- Polish, we recommend a high quality Brass and Copper polish. eg. Brasso or Goddard's
- Cotton stockinette cloth
- Soft orange dusting cloth for removing the polish residue and buffing

For the walnut:

- Light furniture wax, we recommend Briwax clear wood treatment
- White cotton cloth for applying the wax

Also:

- Cotton gloves to wear while polishing the brass and applying wax to the walnut

WHAT TO AVOID

For both brass and walnut surfaces, never use any of the following for cleaning and polishing:

- Abrasive cleaning agents
- Spray-on furniture polishes of any kind
- Nitro-based thinners, acetone or nail varnish remover
- Never protect the brass with bubble-wrap as it can leave marks on the brass that can't be removed.





BRASS SURFACES

Regular polishing with a good quality metal polish such as Brasso or Goddard's Brass and Copper Polish will maintain the original polished finish. If you would prefer to allow the brass to age through oxidation then polish less frequently or not at all.

Normal cleaning and polishing

When using Brasso or Goddard's Brass and Copper Polish please use the following instructions. If you're using a different polish please check the bottle as instructions can vary.

Apply the polish to a stockinette cloth and work it into the surface of the brass working with the grain of the brass. Some pressure is required to get the best results. The polish and the cloth will go black and start to streak slightly but don't worry, this is normal.

Once the surface has been worked over, use a clean dusting cloth (or a fresh stockinette cloth) to clean off the residue and buff the surface.



This should be done in in the same direction as applying the polish to match the grain direction of the brass. For the best finish, use fresh cloths for both the polish application and buffing stages. Dust on the surfaces can be wiped off using a soft, clean dusting cloth. No need to apply pressure.

Heavily marked surfaces

In the case of more heavily marked surfaces, particularly grease marks and wax, first soften with hot water and remove what you can with a soft sponge or cloth. Next dilute a mild household cleaning agent in plenty of water and use a fresh cloth to clean the excess. Finally repeat the process for normal cleaning and polishing above, adding additional pressure to the stubborn areas as required. You may need to repeat this process a few times.

Extra care must be taken when cleaning the brass not to get polish on the walnut surfaces as it can discolour the timber. If polish does find its way onto the walnut, wipe it off with a damp cloth straight away and follow the advice for maintaining the walnut surfaces in the next chapter.

A close-up, vertical image of a walnut wood surface, showing its characteristic wavy, horizontal grain patterns in various shades of brown and tan. The texture is smooth but shows natural wood variations.

WALNUT SURFACES

Applying light furniture wax

The walnut requires only an occasional application of light furniture wax. We use Briwax clear wood treatment. Put a small amount of the wax onto a slightly coarse cotton cloth and rub the walnut surface following the grain of the wood. Allow to dry for 2-3 minutes, then buff to desired gloss with a soft cloth. Within an hour the polish should be absorbed. Light furniture wax is usually fully dry after 24 hours.

Normal cleaning

– eg. dust, finger marks, grease splashes

Dilute a *mild* cleaning agent in plenty of warm water and use a soft, fluff-free, slightly damp cloth to wipe away any marks. Once this is done, dry the walnut surfaces by rubbing with a fresh, dry cloth. It's important to ensure that no water is left in the grooves and corners of the walnut as this can damage the timber. If necessary light furniture wax can be re-applied to the area after the stain has been removed.

Stubborn marks and stains

– eg. ball-point pens, felt-tip pens, lipstick

Use a very small amount of white spirit or benzene for cleaning, before rubbing over all surfaces with a fresh cloth to ensure that the walnut is dry afterwards. Furniture wax can be re-applied locally to the area after the stain has been removed.



GLASSES



If your cabinet has a wine and/or cocktail unit, the glass holders on the inside of the doors are made to fit Riedel glasses. These glasses do not come with the cabinet and can be ordered through Riedel directly.

Here is a list of a standard set for each unit:

Cocktail unit

- 2x 414/1 H2O Classic Bar Water (set of 2)
- 2x 414/3 H2O Classic Bar Longdrink (set of 2)
- 2x 6416/77 Vinum Martini (set of 2)

Wine Unit

- 1x 6416/0 Vinum Cab Sauv/Merlot (set of 2)
- 1x 6416/33 Vinum Sauvignon Blanc (set of 2)
- 2x 6416/8 Vinum Champagne Glass (set of 2)

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ANY QUESTIONS

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