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Why metal, and why glass?

While we talk about timber and natural materials as being our main loves, we're very much open to using a mixture of materials and more modern making methods too – which is where metal and glass come in.

Across our collections, we use a few types of metal and finishes from steel and brass to nickel and chrome – but they all share the same care details. Glass requires something a little different though, but nothing out of the ordinary.

We've put together this small care guide to tell you all you'll need to know.

Caring for Neptune metals

Whether your metal is featured on lighting, on drawer handles, on a sofa's studs or a table's base, the steps to keep it clean are very simple.

Avoid abrasive cleaners, as they ultimately end up doing more damage than good. An e-cloth is all that's needed to dust, and if you spy a stubborn mark, use mild soapy water to rub it away, followed by a dry e-cloth to make sure there are no smears. Be sure to do this carefully though as you don't want the water to touch another part of your piece, such as wood or the bulb – and make sure the electricity is turned off if you're cleaning any lighting.

Caring for glass

We use two types of glass across our collections – toughened sheet glass for large, flat expanses like our glass tabletops and Browning pendants, and hand-blown glass for smaller areas and accessories like wine glasses and wall lights. Our glass is resilient, but like with any Neptune piece, we still advise handling it with care and respect. If scratches and cracks occur on glass, you can try a professional polishing service, but they're very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to repair.

To keep your glass surfaces clean and clear, follow exactly the same steps as you would for metal – a dry e-cloth for dusting, and a damp one for more thorough cleaning followed by a buff with a dry e-cloth. You're likely to spot the odd bubble or ripple where we use hand-blown glass – something that you won't be able to remove and is all part of its character, showing signs of its making process. It's very easy to think that you need an acidic cleaner or specialist glass or mirror cleaner, but there really is no need.

Simply does it.

Metal and glass in the garden

Some of the pieces in our garden collection use metal and/or glass.

When it comes to the glass, the same care advice applies, although you may find you'll need to use soapy water more regularly and with a little more pressure to remove water marks caused by the rain.

As for the metal, we generally follow a four-step process which includes galvanising and powder coating so that the finish is resilient. It means it can be cleaned with a jet wash (from one metre away on a wide spray setting) if a deep clean is needed. If you accidentally chip the finish so that the base material is exposed, rust will eventually set in though.

WHAT DO TO IF RUST SETS IN

If you spot rust on your outdoor furniture, the key is to react quickly before it corrodes the metal.

Treat the affected area with a rust remover or altering compound (this does precisely that and chemically changes it to not act as rust would).

Key the area with sandpaper (we suggest 320–450grit) and repaint it entirely with metal paint for a perfect finish.

Like with all of our garden furniture, while they've been designed to stand up to the elements, they'll always fare far better when covered and protected during downpours and wintery months.

We've written a garden-specific care guide which has all the advice you need for looking after garden furniture – from glass to metal and beyond.

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Other care guides available

Volume one: timber

Volume two: metal & glass

Volume three: fabric

Volume four: surfaces

Volume five: garden

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