



## Maintenance and Cleaning Instructions for TEKA Illumination Luminaires

### MAINTENANCE:

TEKA Illumination luminaires are virtually maintenance free because of the material used in their construction.

Copper, bronze and stainless steel are preferred metals in outdoor environments. Because these metals need no protective finishes, no maintenance is required to ensure the mechanical integrity of the luminaire.

### CLEANING:

Caring for the appearance of TEKA Illumination luminaires is a matter of personal aesthetic preference and a result of the finish originally specified. Although no cleaning is required we suggest the care specified below for the following finishes:

**NATURAL:** TEKA Illumination luminaires specified with the "Natural" finish are surface etched at the factory to promote the natural weathering process. In the presence of salt air or sulphurous pollutants, the copper and copper alloys of bronze and brass will turn green to blue green much like a copper roof. In drier areas a "copper penny" brown can be expected to develop over a period of a few weeks.

To remove stains or fingerprints left during installation, a fine non-metallic abrasive pad may be used to even out the affected areas or refresh the entire luminaire. Please be aware that this method of cleaning will alter the look of the surface etching. Another option is to use a non abrasive cleaner called "Tarnex", which can be found at most local hardware stores. This method of cleaning will not affect the surface etching on the fixture as long as the manufacturer's suggestions for cleaning copper are followed.

A coating of a carnauba base paste wax will add an additional luster to the luminaire once the desired natural patina has been attained. The same process described above may be used to refresh a luminaire that has developed staining from hard irrigation water.



**BROWN PATINA:** Care of the brown patina finish is much the same as for our “natural” finish. The brown color of our brown patina is not a pigmented finish. We apply oxidizing agents to the copper and bronze alloys to accelerate the natural weathering process.

The brown patina will resist staining and fingerprints better than the “natural” finish when first installed. However, over time they will both achieve the same level of stain resistance.

To remove dirt, simply hose off or wash with warm soapy water, a soft cloth and rinse.

**NICKEL:** TEKA Illumination nickel finishes are nickel plated over solid copper, brass or bronze. When installed on or near grade level, a dark oxide may appear that can be removed with a fine non-metallic abrasive pad.

We recommend waxing “nickel” TEKA Illumination luminaries that are to be mounted on or near grade level with a carnauba based paste wax and rewaxing at least once a year.

**STAINLESS STEEL:** All TEKA Illumination luminaries contain some stainless steel components. All fasteners are stainless steel and some guard rings are also stainless steel. While stainless steel will not be degraded when exposed to outdoor environments, in salt air conditions it will surface tarnish and appear to develop rust stains.

Unlike mild steel that will eventually “rust away”, stainless steel will only surface tarnish. Its appearance may be restored by cleaning with a non-metallic abrasive pad and yearly waxing with a carnauba based wax.

For further information or questions regarding the care and maintenance of TEKA Illumination luminaires, send an email to [info@tekaillumination.com](mailto:info@tekaillumination.com).