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Quickstart Directions for ProtectaClear® on Jewelry

4 Basic Steps

1. Polish if Necessary
2. Neutralize if Acid is Used
3. Solvent Wipe
4. Apply Coating

PREPARATION

NEW or METAL WITH PATINA

Solvent wipe the metal with xylene or denatured alcohol to remove any traces of residue. Solvent will NOT remove most forms of tarnish or patina. Test a small area first.

This step needs to be done immediately before coating. Do NOT dilute or rinse the solvent. This step will ensure a completely clean and dry surface. **Skipping this step will result in poor adhesion of the coating.** (Solvent not included in kits – available at hardware stores) Do NOT use Isopropyl alcohol as it leaves a film.

TARNISHED or OXIDIZED METAL

1. **Polish** or buff the surface to the luster desired with any metal polish you prefer (we recommend MAAS Polish, available on our website). The metal can also be sanded or simply cleaned to desired appearance.
2. **Neutralize.** THIS STEP CAN BE SKIPPED IF USING POLISHES THAT ARE NOT ACID BASED. MAAS does not contain acid, however many polishes do, check ingredient list for any type of acid. If you are unsure, complete this step. Use EZ Prep™ Cleaner & Neutralizer in a 1:4 solution with water OR 1 cup baking soda mixed with 1 gallon of water. Dip or wash the metal with a cloth saturated with the neutralizing solution. Rinse with clean water. Dry with a clean cloth to prevent spotting.
3. **Solvent wipe** the metal with xylene or denatured alcohol to remove any traces of residue. This step needs to be done immediately before coating. Do NOT dilute or rinse the solvent. This step will ensure a completely clean and dry surface. **Skipping this step will result in poor adhesion of the coating.** (Solvent not included in kits – available at hardware stores) Do NOT use Isopropyl alcohol as it leaves a film.

The article to be coated must be scrupulously clean and dry. Preparation is very important. If you try to take shortcuts on preparation, you will likely not achieve the intended results and may need to remove the coating and start again. ProtectaClear can be removed with solvents like xylene.

APPLICATION OF COATING – See Page 2

HOW TO OPEN THE CAN

There is a metal insert in the 4 oz, Pint and Quart cans that seal the can for shipping. This needs to be removed & thrown away. The process is simple: Unscrew the cap. **Hold the can to prevent the coating from spilling.** Use a small screwdriver or ice-pick to pierce through the insert and pop it out. You may need to use a small hammer to tap the screwdriver to puncture the metal. Discard this piece.

APPLICATION OF COATING

Personal Protection: Nitrile or chemical resistant gloves are needed to protect your hands (*Rubber gloves will get sticky*). If spraying any coating, eye protection and good ventilation is recommended.

Apply the coating to a completely dry surface. Warming the metal with heat gun or hair dryer will help ensure metal is dry. Allow metal to cool before coating.

1. Pour the coating into clean, dry, metal or glass pan. *Do not use plastic as the solvent can melt plastic.* After you are finished coating, uncontaminated coating can be poured back into the can. Clean off the threads of the can before screwing the lid back on. This will help the lid from sticking.
2. **DO NOT DILUTE COATING.** For application, use a natural-bristled brush, sponge-brush aerosol can, or sprayer. Items can also be dipped into the coating. For chains or other intricate items, spraying is the best application.

Brushing: Lay your items on foil and brush ProtectaClear on with a natural-bristle brush or a sponge-brush. Gently glide the brush over the surface without getting too much excess on the foil below. After an hour you can apply the 2nd coat. If you want to coat the other side of the piece, wait at least 2 hours before turning it over to coat the other side (use a new piece of foil to coat the other side on to avoid any wet coating sticking to the dry side) We recommend coating the “back side” of the piece first.

Dipping: You can insert an unbent uncoated paper clip through the eye of your jewelry piece to dip it. Dip the piece in the coating, and then pull it up. Let the coating drip for a few seconds. It is helpful to have a small "artist's paintbrush" to brush off the excess coating that may gather at the bottom and around the hanger. Hang the item to dry where it isn't touching anything else and have a piece of foil or something under it in case it drips. Make sure to check the item after a couple of minutes, to see if any excess coating has gathered at the bottom. Once the piece has dried for at least an hour, and is dry to the touch, you can apply the 2nd coat. Dip the item, smooth out the excess, and let it dry.

Spraying: Hang the item and spray. You should be 5-6 inches away when spraying. Do not over spray, a quick pass is sufficient for each coat. Apply 2nd coat after 1st coat is dry to the touch, at least an hour.

3. Observe the coating while applying: if the coating separates or does not look completely smooth, **STOP** and re-clean the surface. Other chemicals present on the surface can cause separation and need to be removed completely. Silicone is a common coating agent which can be removed with mineral spirits (*available at hardware stores*). Once removed, complete Step 3 (Solvent Wipe) again.
4. Let the coating dry completely. It will self-level as it dries. If you see an area you missed, let it dry and then coat over the missed area. Everbrite coatings are self-annealing; meaning the second coat will become part of the first coat. Wait at least one hour between coats or until the previous coat is completely dry.
5. **CURE TIME:** Under normal circumstances & with good ventilation, the coating will be fully cured after 4-5 days. The coating will be delicate until it is fully cured. You can shorten cure time by gently heating the coating **AFTER** it is dry to the touch. Dry, coated items placed in a low temperature oven (160°F -180°F) for 1 hour will be cured. Coating **MUST** be cured before prolonged contact with other surfaces.

AFTER CARE: Do NOT use solvent based cleaners or abrasives to clean coated metal. Do not use cleaners with “petroleum distillates”. Suggested cleaners: Windex, mild soap & water or similar mild cleaners.