

THOMAS BRENTON®
British Craftsmanship since 1911

METALWORK FINISHES

A Guide to Our Metalwork Finishes

The finish you choose shapes how your metalwork looks, how it performs and how it can be installed. At Thomas Brenton, we offer five families of finish: standard, sprayed, plated, bronze and brass, and specialist.

Each has its strengths and its limits. This guide explains how and when to use each one, so you can specify with confidence.

OVERVIEW

Five Families of Finish



01

Standard

Powder coating — durable, clean and even.



02

Sprayed

Hand applied in a thin coat, with a subtle texture.



03

Plated

Brass or nickel electroplated onto steel.



04

Bronze & Brass

Patinas on solid bronze and brass only.



05

Specialist

Hand-applied bronze and brass paint finishes.

We strongly recommend speaking with one of our project consultants before specifying any of these finishes.



POWDER COATING A SPIRAL STAIR

01

Standard Finishes

POWDER COATING

Powder coating is our most common finish, and the one we call our standard finish. It gives a durable, clean and even coat, applied in a thick layer.

The range is broad. Alongside standard colours, architectural powder coats carry bronze and metallic reflective pigments. Our most popular is Sherwood Bronze.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

- Single spindles, furniture and other stand-alone components
- External metalwork such as gates, railings and balustrades
- Interior and exterior use, including over galvanised components for exterior work

WHAT TO BEAR IN MIND

- Powder-coated items must be made in component form.
- Once coated, the finish can't be welded or ground without being compromised, and it can't easily be touched up.
- That makes it unsuitable where welding is needed on site.



HAND SPRAYING IN THE WORKSHOP

02

Sprayed Finishes

Our sprayed finishes are hand applied in a thin coat. They add a subtle texture and give a seamless result.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

- Achieving a very matt sheen level, which standard powder coats can't always offer
- Site installation projects, where the finish can be touched up after welding or to repair damage

WHAT TO BEAR IN MIND

- A sprayed finish is always a much thinner coat than powder coating.
- Speak to our team about whether it suits your setting and use.



BRASS PLATING A STEEL FRAME

03

Plated Finishes

Plating is an electroplating process that deposits a layer of brass onto steel. Nickel and other plated finishes are also available.

Plated finishes are versatile and can be applied to a range of metals. They are mostly used on steel, giving the look of brass at a lower cost than solid brass or bronze.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

- Spindles and furniture where a brass or nickel appearance is wanted on a steel substrate
- Pieces that will be brushed or patinated after plating

WHAT TO BEAR IN MIND

- Each component must fit in the plating tank, so size is limited.
- Please speak to one of our team for advice on specifying plated finishes and where they suit your furniture or spindles.



SOLID BRASS AND BRONZE PATINA SAMPLES

04

Bronze & Brass Finishes

These are patinas applied only to solid bronze and solid brass. They are the only truly authentic brass and bronze finishes available.

We use traditional finishing methods handed down over centuries. Each piece is then brushed or burnished to match other brass and bronze finishes in the scheme. Natural variations can occur, and are part of the character of the finish.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

- Interior and exterior use
- Marine settings such as yachts, and coastal properties
- Wet environments
- Projects where authentic, solid-metal brass or bronze is the priority



HAND-APPLYING WENTWORTH BRONZE

05

Specialist Finishes

Our specialist finishes are hand-applied bronze and brass paint finishes, designed for steel spindles and furniture. Each piece is coated by our skilled team at Thomas Brenton using artisanal techniques. Wentworth Bronze is one example.

They are a cost-effective way to achieve the look of brass or bronze on steel.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

- Continuous brass handrails: applied after installation, the finish gives a seamless rail with no visible joins
- Cast iron spindles, where the surface texture brings the finish to life
- Hammered spindles, for the same reason

WHAT TO BEAR IN MIND

- Specialist finishes are best suited to interiors.
- They can be used externally, but need a good protective clear coat over the top, which may affect the depth of the finish.

06

Choosing the Right Finish

We strongly recommend speaking with one of our project consultants before specifying any of these finishes. They will make sure your choice meets your project's specific requirements and performance expectations.

FINISH	SUBSTRATE	INTERIOR / EXTERIOR	SITE TOUCH-UP	KEY CONSIDERATION
01 Standard (powder coat)	Steel, incl. galvanised	Both	Not easily	Made in component form; no welding or grinding after coating
02 Sprayed	Steel	Both	Yes	Thin coat; very matt sheen; slight texture
03 Plated	Mainly steel; other metals possible	Interior	Ask our team	Size limited by plating tank
04 Bronze & brass	Solid bronze and brass only	Both, incl. wet and coastal	Ask our team	The only authentic brass and bronze finish
05 Specialist	Steel and cast iron	Interior; exterior with clear coat	Applied after installation	Clear coat may reduce depth of finish externally

SPEAK TO A PROJECT CONSULTANT

Speak to one of our project consultants before specifying.

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