

LYNCH ESTATE ELEMENTS



LEAD ELEMENTS

Lead is a classic garden ornament with origins in the landscapes of England. Our company entered into lead production in the early 1930's. The association between hand wrought iron and cast lead ornaments was an easy transition for the craftsmen. Kenneth Lynch was known to say that lead was the poor man's bronze. While this is certainly an overstatement with the level of labor involved in the production, it is true that the metal itself is less expensive than bronze. Lead can be worked over in many unique ways due to its soft and pliable nature. These same attributes do somewhat restrict the use of lead in overly public spaces.



Example of initial finish

LEAD INFORMATION:

- We use 99.7% pure lead, with 100% from recycled materials (such as car batteries and cable sheathing)
- Lead is poured into aluminum molds where the molten metal sets up rapidly to form a thin wall before the remaining material is dumped out. Each casting is unique in wall thickness and weight due to this method.
- Lead pieces are welded using oxygen and hydrogen torches to melt pure lead filler between the sections being joined.
- The castings are worked over by hand with files, chasing tools and finally wire brushed. This fresh lead surface is shiny silver.
- The finishing process includes a brush applied acid etching, bringing the lead to a dull grey finish.
- Our lead is completed with a liberal application of black tinted paste wax, which is then wiped back and allowed to dry prior to hand buffing. The resulting finished product is a dark grey with a slight sheen.



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Lead will begin to weather once exposed to rain. The vertical exposed surfaces will have some white streaks before the entire piece takes on an ashen grey appearance. We are aware of a condition where lead oxide forms on the surface causing shades of dark red and black even some pink streaks in the early stages. There is no strong evidence for what causes this reaction but it is able to be remediated. Our team can provide instruction for returning the lead to the original dark grey waxed finish.



PRECAUTIONS:

- Do not use harsh chemicals such as chlorine, acid or vinegar in or near the lead.
- Avoid sanding or wire brushing debris off of lead, this not only changes the finish but also releases lead dust into the air. Use only soft bristled brushes for maintenance.
- Do not hammer or pick. Protect from garden tools and equipment.
- Do not place lead in fountains where family pets often take a drink.
- Do not use in chlorinated swimming pools or spas both for the protection of the lead and to avoid bathing in the water.



Shiny during fabrication



Acid etch ready for wax



Signs of weathering