Copper Table Tops:
Buying, Decorating & Maintenance Guide

Copper topped tables imbue Old World beauty and timeless rustic charm to any interior or exterior spaces. Here, we explore everything you need to know to bring this fabulous and elegant décor element to your home.

Copper is a red-brown ductile metal. Because of its capability to become more beautiful as it ages, it is used in various home-decorating elements, one of which is as a table top. Copper will patina over time and take on natural looking characteristics that are highly desirable.

Learn about the different styles of copper table tops, how to choose a base, and how to decorate your copper table top. As a bonus, we also provide tips on proper care and maintenance for this type of furniture.
Copper Topped Table Styles

Copper table tops come in different shapes and sizes, you’ll find round, oval, square and rectangular tops available. Copper topped tables can be classified according to furniture styles. They are:

- **Accent table**—this is a table style that is most noted for its artistic design. It is considered a sculptural piece and usually comes with a small base.

- **Bar table**—this looks like an otherwise ordinary table but it has added height to make it easier for people to use even when they are standing.

- **Coffee table**—is the type that is usually low-lying and may function as a footrest. It is often placed in front of a sofa or occasional chairs and, as the name suggests, where coffee or tea is served when you have guests.

- **Console table**—it is usually a place where vignettes are located. It is ideally placed by the front door foyer and is what the visitor sees upon entering the house.

- **Café table**—a smaller version of the dining table, these petit tables are often used in smaller indoor eating areas and outdoor spaces.

- **Dining table**—as the name suggests, is the furniture used for when one is eating. It may be circular, square or rectangular in shape and its size depends on the number of seats it intends to occupy.
The base is just as important as the table top. It can be:

- **Modern** which is a base that most often boasts clean, sleek lines and abstract figures. It is mostly used for spaces that are contemporary with minimal furniture wherein the table can act as an accent piece.

- **Old world** which is a base that is more intricate with very detailed patterns. It is more commonly seen in spaces that highlights its vintage and antique character. If used in a contemporary space, it is usually played around by coloring it in a bright and shocking color to highlight the furniture.

- **Rustic style** table bases often feature rough and natural elements.

- Depending on the type and style of table, you’ll find the basic base formats are: **four-legged, tripod, pedestal, trestle and double-based**. These base formats can be made of metal or wood and feature a variety of leg styles such as decoratively ornate, scrolled, wood-turned, straight or tapered.

- **Wrought iron bases** come in modern, rustic and old world styles and in all basic base formats. They tend to compliment a copper table top the best.
Decorating with Copper Table Tops

If you want to flaunt your copper topped table, the best place for this would be in the living room. Most conversations happen in this space so why not make this a piece that you can talk about. Top it with some coffee table books and magazines, and voila! A perfectly styled table that will act as a focal point.

Another place where you can highlight your copper topped table would be in the foyer. A console table is perfect for this space. Choose a base to match your style such as a decoratively scrolled base to emphasize Old World style décor or a straight-lined base to exude a modern look. As soon as your guests enter, they will already have a sense of what your house has to offer. Display some plants, a lamp, or even some figurines to complete the look.

Your dining area is also a place where you can place your copper topped dining table. You can choose chairs that will match the base of your table or go at a completely different route by choosing wooden chairs to provide an interesting contrast to your pieces of furniture.
Types of Copper Used for Tabletops

The copper used for your table top can be one of the following: raw copper, copper leaf, or sealed copper. Copper used for home décor is usually a solid sheet of copper that is bent or hammered around a wood base for structural support and integrity.

They may have distressed markings or patterns purposely inflicted on the copper giving each table top its own unique look and feel. Coloring is a feature that is unique to each piece of copper giving it its own personality. Copper is an amazing material that tends to heal itself over time with exposure to moisture in the air. The color tones in our copper are fired directly into the copper.

Age and use also plays a big part in the look of each copper table top. This is what makes copper an appealing metal used for different decorations.
Care & Maintenance

• Avoid Lacquer: Never ever seal your copper with lacquer.

• Avoid Chemical Cleaners: You can dust your table by using nonabrasive cloth after every meal. You may also use mild soap and water. However, you should avoid using cleansers that have harsh chemicals as ingredients.

• Protect Against Heat Marks: Such marks can become visible from very hot pots and pans, so use a hot pad or server for anything that comes directly from the oven or stove top.

• Waxing & Protecting: To protect your copper table top and keep the copper sealed, apply clear paste wax every few weeks. This will preserve the finish and protect against spills and oxidation. First, apply a very thin coat of any commercially available furniture or wood floor paste wax. Briwax is best, but Johnson’s, Minwax, or any other clear paste wax found at your local hardware store would work just fine. Let the wax dry for five to ten minutes. Then buff to a glossy sheen using a clean, dry cotton cloth. Each additional thin coat of wax makes the copper look richer and more beautiful. While waxing protects the copper, not waxing it will let the copper furniture age over time which can turn it into something more unique and bring out a beauty all its own.

• Scratches & Stains: Copper is a soft metal and sharp utensils can scratch and gouge the surface. If your copper furniture becomes scratched or stained, the best thing to do is... nothing! Leave the affected area alone and let it be exposed to the air until the copper begins to regain its original color (just like how a shiny copper penny turns brown). The amount of time required for this process varies, but it is typically on the order of a few weeks. Once the affected area has healed itself and the original color tones have recovered, the copper should be sealed again with paste wax to preserve and protect the finish. Though the scratch will not technically be removed, it will not be visible once it turns back to the original color.
Frequently Asked Questions

• Will buying a copper topped table be a good investment?
Yes. Since it becomes more beautiful as it ages, it is a perfect furniture accent that can also serve as a family heirloom for years to come. Aside from that, with the proper care and maintenance, it can last through time.

• Will it fit the design of my space?
Yes. You have two choices—match the theme of your space or choose a table that is in complete contrast in terms of looks. Either way, you will have a fine looking piece in your place.

• How difficult is it to choose the style of copper topped table for my home?
Not difficult at all. The good thing about copper is that, because it is reddish brown in color, it registers as a neutral-hued element. That being the case, it is not difficult for it to blend in with your other furniture and décor.

TimelessWroughtIron.com has a selection of beautiful, handmade copper table tops in round, oval, square and rectangle shapes in many standard table top sizes. Browse our selection of Copper Table Tops today.