




# Care & Cleaning Guide

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 **KONST<sup>®</sup>  
SMIDE**

by firstchoicelighting<sup>®</sup>





Gnosjö Konstsmide was founded in Gnosjö, Småland, in 1942 and is part of the family owned Gunnar Johansson Group. The current owners are the brothers Peter, Janne, Jonas and Daniel Johansson. Konstsmide's desire is to always be the customer's first choice for Christmas and outdoor lighting. They achieve this by offering a complete and highly competitive product range of the best possible quality, service and delivery reliability.

The following pages contain some helpful do's, don'ts and tips to allow you to continue to enjoy your Konstsmide product at its best for many years to come.



## GENERAL

- Ensure electrical power to the product is switched off before carrying out any cleaning or maintenance.
- If the product has to be dis-assembled, make sure you have a copy of the instruction manual for re-assembly; these can be downloaded from the First Choice Lighting website.
- If bulbs are to be removed for cleaning, ensure sufficient time has been allowed for them to cool before handling.
- Any untested cleaning products should be first tried on a small hidden area of the fixture to ensure they do not affect the surface.
- Do not use abrasive cleaning products; solvents and chemicals can damage finishes.
- It is recommended that exterior products are regularly cleaned and maintained every six months; accumulations of dirt, garden vegetation or bird faeces etc will damage the product if left untended.

## METAL

- Clean with a soft dry cloth.
- If particularly dirty, moisten the cloth using fresh water and dry thoroughly using a separate soft cloth.
- Exterior products are quite resistant to corrosion; however they do require maintenance to preserve their appearance. Wash the product with a solution of detergent and warm water, removing all surface deposits.
- Rinse with fresh water and dry with a soft cloth.

## MIRROR

- Clean with a soft cloth moistened using fresh water, dry thoroughly using a separate soft cloth.
- If particularly dirty, then use a soft cloth with a non-abrasive cleaning product.
- Wipe the glass starting from the centre, working outwards in a circular motion.
- Polish using a clean microfibre cloth.

## FABRIC

- Use a fine brush, such as a paint brush or a lint remover to remove any accumulated dirt or dust.
- Use a soft cloth slightly moist with fresh water to gently remove any dirty marks.
- Do not immerse shades with a plastic inner liner or trim in water.

## PLASTIC

- Clean with a soft dry cloth; if particularly dirty, moisten the cloth using fresh water.
- Dry thoroughly using a separate soft cloth.

## GLASS

- Use a clean, soft cloth to wipe the product.
- If the surface is particularly dirty, use a soft cloth moistened with a mild solution of detergent and water.
- Detach glass parts from the product and rinse thoroughly with fresh water.
- A mild glass cleaner may also be used as long as it does not come into contact with any other surfaces of the product.
- Ensure the glass parts are fully dried before re-assembly.

## WOOD

- Clean with a soft dry cloth, if particularly dirty moisten the cloth using fresh water.
- Dry thoroughly using a separate soft cloth.

## CERAMIC

- Bare or unglazed ceramic is very porous; any water or liquids which come into contact with it can create staining.
- Dust can be removed with a dry soft cloth or with a fine bristle paint brush.
- Dirty marks may be removed by carefully rubbing using a damp sponge or vulcanized rubber.
- If the plaster has been glazed or sealed using a paint or varnish coating, it can be cleaned with a slightly damp cloth.

## STAINLESS STEEL

The shiny, uniform and decorative surface of stainless steel makes it very suitable for outdoor use. It is an alloy consisting of iron, chrome and nickel. During bath pickling, a thin, rustproof oxide layer forms on the surface. The surface is continually vulnerable to atmospheric conditions, and from other effects of the close environment. This means that the lamp must be regularly maintained if its surface is to remain shiny and untarnished by rust. Before setting it up, treat your lamp with acid-free oil, and dry it off with a soft cloth. Repeat this three or four times a year. Stainless steel lamps are not recommended for use in aggressive environments such as coastal, agricultural or industrial areas.

## COPPER & BRASS FIXTURES

Our copper & brass and fixtures are made from respectively solid copper & brass. The mechanical machining will leave small scratches in the surface, as well as residues of rinse aid. This rapidly disappears in the patina process. After the first rain showers the copper or brass surface will appear stained, but the aerated air and moisture will soon make the lamp appear with dark brownish colour. Over the years, the material copper will get a beautiful patina-green colour & brass will get a darker and more uniform colour. The uniformity of the patina surface, as well as the rate at which the process occurs is dependent on the environment that affect the fixture.

## HOT GALVANIZED LAMPS

The zinc treatment of the steel lamps is executed manually in plants. The temperature of the melted zinc is about 460 degrees. When the lamps are dipped in melted zinc a reaction between the metals occurs, which develops alloys in the surface. The lamp and the components of the lamp are manually dipped in the hot zinc. This treatment leaves variations in the coating in the form of partly an uneven surface and partly minor formations of drops. Thin 'zinc curtains' might also occur on the surface and they show as a thin film which hangs down from the edge of the lamp. This film can easily be removed or brushed off with a soft brush.

## CONDENSATION

Condensation is a natural phenomenon arising under specific atmospheric conditions. Damp heat and cold air meet, which causes condensation of water on the surface. When water heats up it leads to rising water vapour, which will be able to affect electric components. Condensation is not included by Konstsmide warranty, unless it is possible to prove that a technical /production error in the lighting causes entry of water. In case of condensation please check:

- If the lighting is mounted according to instructions. Washers should seal tightly. Make sure to tension screws and lenses.
- In garden lightings rising damp from the ground may cause condensation in the metal post. This problem can be defeated by filling sealing material into the metal post.

## ALUMINIUM FIXTURES

Our aluminium light fixtures are made from die-cast and/or extruded aluminium, where the light fixture's design determines whether both types of materials, or just one of them, are used for different parts of the same light fixture. Aluminium light fixtures in raw aluminium are subsequently coated with a special clear coat, which seals the surface to safeguard against corrosion. Painted aluminium light fixtures are powder-coated and have a uniform and smooth surface. To avoid the light fixture tarnishing, it is recommended to clean and wipe the light fixture after mounting, and repeat this process 3-4 times each year. This is done with a regular cleaning agent. Black light fixtures which are bleached by strong sunlight can also benefit from treatment with silicone spray as needed, to maintain the black colour. Mounting light fixtures in coastal, agricultural or industrial areas is not recommended, as these aggressive surroundings may cause the light fixture to corrode, which may entail spalling, bubbles in the surface and a whitish incrustation on the light fixture's surface.