

Plaque Installation & Care Guide

Keep this with your plaque. Please read it before the installer arrives.

STEP ONE — INSPECT YOUR PLAQUE WITHIN 5 DAYS OF DELIVERY

Open the box and check the plaque as soon as it arrives, even if your installation is weeks or months away. If it was damaged in transit, email photos of the plaque **and all of the packaging** to **sales@americancastbronzeplaques.com** within 5 days of delivery, and keep the packaging until we tell you otherwise. We will file the carrier claim and remake the plaque at no charge to you. Damage reported after 5 days cannot be claimed against the carrier and is not covered.

What's in the box

- Your plaque, with the mounting method cast or drilled into the back as shown on your approved proof.
- Screws or mounting hardware for that method.
- Rosettes and a small tube of silicone, if your plaque has a wood, solid-wall, or hollow-wall mount with rosettes.
- Drilling templates are not included unless ordered. Use the plaque itself to mark the hole positions.

Lost or extra rosettes are \$25.00 each plus shipping. Please check the hardware before the installer arrives.

Before you start

- **Every wall-mounted plaque needs both mechanical fasteners and construction adhesive.** Use an exterior-rated construction adhesive made for metal and stone (Loctite PL Max Premium or equivalent). Stake- and post-mounted plaques are the exception.
- **Never mount a plaque directly to stucco.** Stucco minerals and moisture attack the clear coat and finish. Use studs and spacers with at least a 1/4" standoff; plaques mounted flat to stucco are not covered by warranty.
- Large, heavy, or overhead plaques should be installed by a qualified professional. Installation is your responsibility — confirm the wall, anchors, and method are suitable and meet local codes.

Mounting instructions by type

Your mount type is printed on your proof and order confirmation. Follow only the section that applies.

Blind mount — stone, brick, poured concrete

No visible hardware. The back of the plaque is drilled and tapped for threaded studs.

- Thread the supplied studs into the back of the plaque by hand until snug.
- Hold the plaque in position and mark the stud locations on the wall. Confirm level.
- Drill with a masonry bit slightly larger than the studs and a little deeper than their length. Blow or brush all dust out of the holes.
- Fill each hole with construction adhesive and run a bead on the back of the plaque around the studs.
- Press the plaque onto the wall, check level, and tape or brace it until the adhesive has fully cured per the adhesive label. Do not load or move it before then.

Solid-wall mount — masonry, stone, concrete

Screws through the corner holes with masonry anchors; rosettes cover the screw heads.

- Mark and drill the four corner holes with a masonry bit sized for the supplied anchors. Clean the dust out.
- Set the anchors. Apply construction adhesive in the holes and on the back of the plaque.
- Drive the screws until the plaque is flush and firm. **Do not overtighten** — this can crack the finish or distort the plaque.
- Fit the rosettes (see below) once the plaque is set.

Hollow-wall mount — drywall, hollow block, thin panels

Interior use. Toggle or expansion anchors through the corner holes.

- Use toggle or expansion anchors rated for the plaque's weight; locate studs where possible and use them.
- Drill the corner holes for the anchors, set the anchors, add a bead of construction adhesive on the back, and drive the screws snug — not tight.
- Fit the rosettes once the plaque is set.

Wood mount — wood posts, beams, panels

Wood screws through the corner holes; rosettes cover the screw heads.

- Pre-drill pilot holes to prevent splitting. Use the supplied rust-resistant screws.
- Apply construction adhesive to the back, drive the screws snug, and fit the rosettes.

Stake mount — garden, lawn, memorial beds

Stakes come in 24", 36", and 48" lengths.

- Push the stake at least 12" into the ground. For firm, permanent placement, or in soft soil, set it in concrete.
- Keep the plaque clear of mower and trimmer contact; keep sprinklers from spraying the plaque directly.

Post mount — freestanding

Square posts in 6' or 8' lengths; plaques over 24" wide use two posts.

- Set each post in concrete with one-third of its length below ground, plumb and square to each other, and let the concrete cure before hanging the plaque.
- Attach the plaque with the supplied hardware and check level in both directions.

Monument post mount (Type R) — freestanding on round pipe

The mount is cast into the back of the plaque and slips over a Schedule 40 pipe. Pipe is usually supplied by us in 7' or 8' lengths; if you are supplying your own pipe, contact us first to verify the post dimensions your mount requires.

- Set the pipe in concrete with at least one-third of its length below ground. Check plumb in both directions before the concrete sets, and let it fully cure before mounting the plaque.
- Apply construction adhesive or silicone around the top of the pipe where the plaque mount will overlap it.
- Slide the plaque mount down over the pipe, square it to the walkway or road, and tighten the set screws in the mount down onto the pipe.
- Do not lean on or load the plaque until the adhesive has cured.

Address, garden, and lawn plaques

- **Wall plaques** ship with wood screws. On brick, block, or stone you will need masonry anchors sized for the screws (not included) and a masonry bit. Mark the holes through the plaque, drill, set the anchors, and drive the screws snug. No construction adhesive is needed.
- **Lawn plaques** ship with their stakes. Push the stakes fully into the ground and keep the plaque clear of mowers and trimmers.
- **Cleaning:** non-abrasive detergent and water with a soft cloth or brush. Salt, solvents, and chemicals damage the finish — rinse off salt spray and de-icer promptly.
- **Warranty:** address, garden, and lawn plaques carry a 5-year limited finish warranty rather than our lifetime plaque warranty. Contact us with photos and your order number if a problem develops.

Fitting the rosettes

- Rosettes are permanent once set — fit them only after the plaque is mounted and positioned.
- Put a **small dab** of the supplied silicone on the back of each rosette and press it over the screw head. Use it sparingly — excess silicone oozes out from behind the rosette and damages the paint.
- Hold each rosette with a piece of painter's tape until the silicone has cured (usually 24 hours), then remove the tape.

Care and cleaning

Your plaque is protected by a clear coat. Caring for it means protecting that coat — nothing more.

- **Routine cleaning:** rinse with clean water and wipe with a soft cloth or sponge, working in the direction of the metal's grain. For grime, use warm water with a little mild dish soap; a soft-bristled brush is fine for textured backgrounds. Rinse, then dry immediately with a soft cloth so water spots don't form.
- **Never use** steel wool, wire brushes, abrasive pads, bleach, solvents, ammonia cleaners, or a pressure washer. These cut through the clear coat and the damage is not covered.
- **No waxes, sealants, or clear coats** unless we recommend them for your plaque.
- Keep sprinkler spray, de-icing salt, fertilizer, and pool or cleaning chemicals off the plaque.
- Check the mounting points every few months on outdoor plaques, especially after winter freeze-thaw.
- **Patina is normal.** Bronze and aluminum finishes soften and darken naturally over the years; this is the character of cast metal, not a defect.

Your warranty, in brief

Cast bronze, cast aluminum, etched, and precision-tooled plaques installed on a wall, post, monument, or other vertical or elevated surface carry a **lifetime warranty** against breakage and defects in materials and workmanship, for as long as the plaque remains in its original installed location. If a covered defect occurs, we will refinish or replace the plaque at no charge. The warranty does not include removal, reinstallation, shipping to us, or any consequential cost.

Not covered:

- Fading, darkening, or patina.
- Plaques installed flat in or parallel to the ground (ground-set bronze memorial markers carry a one-year warranty from installation instead).
- Plaques mounted directly to stucco without studs and a minimum 1/4" standoff.
- Flash-bronze or other interior-only finishes installed outdoors.
- Damage from improper installation, vandalism, abrasive or chemical cleaning, pressure washing, or exposure to salt, chemicals, or sprinkler water.
- Printed and UV-printed elements, which carry a limited 7-year exterior warranty.
- Address, garden, and lawn plaques, which carry a 5-year limited finish warranty instead.

Full terms: americancastbronzeplaques.com/terms-and-conditions

Good to know

- **Tools you'll need:** drill, masonry bit, level, tape measure, pencil, caulk gun, and painter's tape.
- **Mounting height:** the center of a wall plaque about 60" above the floor or grade is the usual reading height. ADA signs have their own placement rules and should follow the project drawings.
- **Cold weather:** check the adhesive label for its minimum application temperature. Most construction adhesives won't cure properly below about 40°F; wait for warmer weather or use a low-temperature formula.
- **Fasteners:** use the hardware we supply. If any piece is replaced, use stainless steel; plain or galvanized steel in contact with bronze will corrode.

SHOW US THE FINISHED INSTALLATION

We'd love to see where your plaque ended up. Send a photo at

americancastbronzeplaques.com/share-your-project or reply to any of our emails. Questions during installation?

Email sales@americancastbronzeplaques.com — we answer every message.