

Corrosion Ratings of Cast Copper Alloys in Various Media

Ratings: A = Recommended B = Acceptable C = Not recommended

Corrosive Medium	Copper	Tin Bronze	Leaded Tin Bronze	High-Lead Tin Bronze	Leaded Red Brass	Leaded Semi-Red Brass	Leaded Yellow Brass	Leaded High-Strength Yellow Brass	High-Strength Yellow Brass	Aluminum Bronze	Leaded Nickel Brass	Leaded Nickel Bronze	Silicon Bronze	Silicon Brass
Acetate solvents	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Acetic acid														
20%	A	C	B	C	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	A	A	B
50%	A	C	B	C	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	B	A	B
Glacial	A	A	A	C	A	C	C	C	C	A	B	B	A	A
Acetone	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Acetylene ¹	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Alcohols ²	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Aluminum chloride	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Aluminum sulfate	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	A
Ammonia, moist gas	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Ammonia, moisture-free	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ammonium chloride	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Ammonium hydroxide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Ammonium nitrate	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Ammonium sulfate	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	A
Aniline and aniline dyes	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Asphalt	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Barium chloride	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	A	A	A	C
Barium sulfide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C	C
Beer ²	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	C	A	A	C	A	A	B
Beet sugar syrup	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	B
Benzene	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Benzol	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Boric acid	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Butane	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Calcium bisulfite	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	B	A	A	B
Calcium chloride, acid	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Calcium chloride, alkaline	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	A	C	B
Calcium hydroxide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Calcium hypochlorite	C	C	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Cane sugar syrups	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Carbonated beverages	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Carbon dioxide, dry	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Carbon dioxide, moist ²	B	B	B	C	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	A	A	B
Carbon tetrachloride, dry	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Carbon tetrachloride, moist	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	A
Chlorine, dry	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Chlorine, moist	C	C	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Chromic, acid	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Citric, acid	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Copper sulfate	B	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	B	B	B	A	A

¹Acetylene forms an explosive compound with copper when moist or when certain impurities are present and the gas is under pressure. Alloys containing less than 65% Cu are satisfactory under this use. When gas is not under pressure other copper alloys are satisfactory. ²Copper and copper alloys resist corrosion by most food products. Traces may be dissolved and affect taste or color. In such cases, copper metals are often tin coated.

Corrosion Rating of Cast Copper Alloys in Various Media (continued)

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Corrosive Medium	Copper	Tin Bronze	Leaded Tin Bronze	High-Lead Tin Bronze	Leaded Red Brass	Leaded Semi-Red Brass	Leaded Yellow Brass	Leaded High-Strength Yellow Brass	High-Strength Yellow Brass	Aluminum Bronze	Leaded Nickel Brass	Leaded Nickel Bronze	Silicon Bronze	Silicon Brass
Cottonseed oil ²	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Creosole	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	B	B	B	B
Ethers	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ethylene glycol	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ferric chloride, sulfate	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Ferrous chloride, sulfate	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Formaldehyde	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Formic acid	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	C
Freon	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Fuel oil	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Furfural	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Gasoline	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Gelatin ²	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Glucose	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Glue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Glycerin	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Hydrochloric or muriatic acid	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Hydrofluoric acid	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Hydrofluosilicic acid	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	B	C
Hydrogen	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Hydrogen peroxide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Hydrogen sulfide, dry	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	B	C
Hydrogen sulfide, moist	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Lacquers	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lacquer thinners	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lactic acid	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Linseed oil	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Liquors														
Black	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	B	B
Green	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	B
White	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	B
Magnesium chloride	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	B
Magnesium hydroxide	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	B
Magnesium sulfate	A	A	A	A	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	B	A	B
Mercury and mercury salts	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Milk ²	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Mosasses ²	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Natural gas	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Nickel chloride	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	A	C
Nickel sulfate	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Nitric acid	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Oleic acid	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	A	A	B
Oxalic acid	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	A	A	B
Phosphoric acid	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	A	A	A
Picric acid	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

²Copper and copper alloys resist corrosion by most food products. Traces may be dissolved and affect taste or color. In such cases, copper metals are often tin coated.

Corrosion Rating of Cast Copper Alloys in Various Media (continued)

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Corrosive Medium	Copper	Tin Bronze	Leaded Tin Bronze	High-Lead Tin Bronze	Leaded Red Brass	Leaded Semi-Red Brass	Leaded Yellow Brass	Leaded High-Strength Yellow Brass	High-Strength Yellow Brass	Aluminum Bronze	Leaded Nickel Brass	Leaded Nickel Bronze	Silicon Bronze	Silicon Brass
Potassium chloride	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Potassium cyanide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Potassium hydroxide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Potassium sulfate	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Propane gas	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sea water	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	B	B
Soap solutions	A	A	A	A	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Sodium bicarbonate	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Sodium bisulfate	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	C
Sodium carbonate	C	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	A
Sodium chloride	A	A	A	A	A	B	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Sodium cyanide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Sodium hydroxide	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	C
Sodium hypochlorite	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Sodium nitrate	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	A	A
Sodium peroxide	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Sodium phosphate	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sodium sulfate, silicate	A	A	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	B
Sodium sulfide, thiosulfate	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Stearic acid	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sulfur, solid	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	C
Sulfur chloride	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Sulfur dioxide, dry	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sulfur dioxide, moist	A	A	A	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	B
Sulfur trioxide, dry	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sulfuric acid														
78% or less	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	B	B
78% to 90%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
90% to 95%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	C
Fuming	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	C
Tannic acid	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tartaric acid	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Toluene	B	B	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A
Trichlorethylene, dry	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Trichlorethylene, moist	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Turpentine	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Varnish	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Vinegar	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	A	B
Water, acid mine	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Water, condensate	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Water, potable	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	A
Whiskey ²	A	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C
Zinc chloride	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	B	C
Zinc sulfate	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	B	C	A	A	C

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