STAINLESS STEEL CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE





Stainless steel is a low maintenance solution that stays beautiful longer, with a greater resistance to rust and discolouration when cleaned and maintained regularly.

Stainless steel is not immune to corrosion or rusting as is commonly thought. This is especially true when stainless comes in contact with other metals (e.g., mild steel) or salty/marine environments.

The material is **Stain 'less' Steel**, not **Stain 'free' Steel**. If treated improperly (including contamination) during storage, transportation or fabrication, it will corrode and obtain a "tea-staining" or rusty look to the surface.

Things to remember when installing and cleaning stainless steel products:

- 1. Cross-contamination between stainless steel and other metals can cause surface rust on the stainless steel over time.
- 2. Stainless steel should be kept separated from other materials.
- 3. Fasteners used on any stainless steel products should also be stainless steel (especially in an exterior environment).
- 4. Blades and cutting equipment used on stainless steel should be of an appropriate type and material.
- 5. Gloves, cloths and other materials used should be clean and free from debris.
- 6. Clean the stainless steel using products recommended for stainless steel cleaning immediately after installation to remove any debris from the material.
- 7. Use a coating on the surface to help further protect the stainless steel against rusting (e.g., ProtectaClear).

Things to remember when maintaining stainless steel products:

- 1. Use cleaning pads and cloths made of non-metallic material.
- 2. Maintain a regular cleaning routine of the stainless steel to remove any contaminants and keep the stainless looking beautiful.

a) Basic Cleaning

Clean all material using soap and water and a clean cloth regularly.

b) Thorough Cleaning

Clean all material using a cleaner recommended for stainless steel (e.g., SSCLEANER);
use a care spray to protect the material (e.g., SSCARESPRAY).

c) Extensive Cleaning and Protection

- Clean the product with a cleaner recommended for stainless steel.
- Re-apply the protective coating. Depending on the use or abuse that the stainless steel gets, it will determine how often you need to re-apply the protective coating. For example, the recommendation for ProtectaClear is as follows: On some applications that do not get a lot of use, it will last for many years without needing to be re-applied. For applications that get a lot of use or scratching, it may need to be touched up or re-applied every year. ProtectaClear will blend to itself, so the coating does not need to be removed for re-application.
- 3. Remove stains or rust spots as soon as they appear. See SSEVSSKIT1, SSEVSSKIT2 for stainless steel rust removal and protective coating kits. The rust remover SSEVACC5 is also available separately.

Grades of Stainless Steel:

There are two grades of stainless steel commonly used in architectural applications. Stainless Steel Alloy 304 is recommended for interior use. Stainless Steel Alloy 316 is more resistant to corrosion than Alloy 304 and is recommended for exterior use.

STAINLESS STEEL PRODUCTS



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