

CLEANING & MAINTAINING STAINLESS STEEL

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Stainless steel products should be kept clean at all times. The secret to stainless steel's ability to maintain a high quality finish and promises of a long life expectancy is the invisible chromium-oxide film that sits on the surface and protects the steel beneath. To maintain this film it is essential that the surface remains clean and in constant contact with oxygen. If this film is penetrated (either by abrasion or chemically) and dirt, liquid, grime contaminants embed themselves in these micro chasms for an extended period of time, the chromium-oxide film is not regenerated and the steel below will eventually become damaged and discoloured.

CLEAN WITH

CLEANING MATERIALS

- A soft cloth
- A soft-bristled brush
- A natural or artificial sponge

CLEANING SOLUTIONS

- Hand washing soap - soft warm water solution
- Mild soap - soft warm water solution
- White vinegar - soft warm water solution

It is recommended that general cleaning of stainless steel surfaces be carried out weekly, or as soon as a build up of surface media has been observed. To clean, simply wash stainless steel surfaces with warm, diluted, mild soapy water using a cloth or soft bristled brush. Once all dirt, oil and grime is removed, rinse thoroughly with clean water and wipe dry.

Do NOT use a metal brush or steel wool to clean stainless steel. Ever. These tools will scratch the surface as well as potentially leave behind steel fragments that can go rusty and cause the stainless to discolour. Using these materials will void any product warranty.

Do NOT use scourers of any kind that have previously been used on ordinary steel. Microscopic steel fibres transferred onto stainless steel can cause considerable damage to the surface and will void any product warranty.

Do NOT use abrasive cleaning brushes, pads or agents on highly polished finishes.

Do NOT use harsh cleaners that contain powerful acidic or alkaline chemicals such as hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide that will damage the surface. Any water coming into contact with stainless steel, particularly cleaning solutions, should have zero chloride content as even minute amounts can cause damage. Using these cleaners will void any product warranty.

Do NOT use chlorinated sanitisers, cleansers or bleach of any kind. Despite some cleaners displaying the text, 'Suitable for Toilets and Urinals' this is more likely in reference to ceramic/vitreous China products. Use of these cleaners can damage stainless steel and will void any product warranty.

Do NOT use brick cleaning liquids that contain hydrochloric acid anywhere near stainless. If cement needs to be removed from stainless (before it sets), a mixture of hot water and 25% vinegar or 10% phosphoric acid can be effective. Once cleaned, the surface should then be neutralised with dilute ammonia or sodium bicarbonate then rinsed and dried.

