



Style • Strength • Service

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STAINLESS STEEL MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

Stainless Steels are inherently corrosion resistant materials that do not need additional surface protection to enhance their appearance and durability. Some routine maintenance and cleaning is needed to keep stainless steel surfaces in good condition so that the aesthetic appearance and corrosion resistance are not compromised. In the respect, stainless steels are no different to other construction materials such as glass, plastics or coated steels, which are never maintenance free throughout the life of a building. These guidelines are to give building owners, developers and facility manager's advice on efficient, cost-effective cleaning that will allow them to take advantage of the corrosion resistant properties of stainless steel.

On external applications, such as facades, rainfall can normally be expected to wash off accumulations of dirt and other deposits efficiently, depending on the amount of exposure of the elevation.

Special attention should be given to sheltered areas during routine cleaning to ensure that accumulations of airborne contaminants are removed.

For more stubborn dirt, nylon pads such those known as "Scotch-Brite" pads are usually satisfactory. Non-stainless steel based pads, cleaning wool or wire brushes must **not** be used on stainless steel. Apart from scratching the surface, these pads can leave carbon steel deposits on the stainless steel surface, which can subsequently develop into rust spots, if the surface becomes wet.

The cleaning of stainless steel items for building interiors is really no different to other materials. Cleaning should be done before there is a visible buildup of soiling or finger-marking, so that the effort and cost of cleaning is minimized along with the risk of marking or altering the appearance of the surfaces.

On building exterior applications, stainless steel may be exposed to a wider range of potentially more aggressive environment as a result of contact with:

- Marine atmospheres,
- Environments laden with industrial pollutants,
- Salt spray from road de-icing salt,
- Atmospheric dirt and traffic film.

All cause brown staining to appear. It is a good practice to clean the stainless steel at the same frequency as the building's windows (glazing). Depending on the severity of soiling and deposit build up, routine cleaning frequencies of 6-12 months for light soiling and 3-6 months for heavy soiling or environments such as those listed above is advisable. A stainless steel cleaner containing phosphoric acid will remove this form of contamination. Please contact Cable Art, Inc. for stainless steel cleaning and protectant products.