



## INTELLIGENT FACILITY SOLUTIONS

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## GENERAL CLEANING TIPS FOR STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES

All kinds of stainless steel can develop spots or discolourations when contact with certain substances or unsuitable cleaning products are used during the cleaning process. The surface of the product must always be kept clean in order to allow stainless steel to have a high resistance to corrosion. Dust can eventually harm this material.

### DEFINITION

Explanatory note regarding the different finishes, maintenance and cleaning of stainless surfaces.

Stainless steel finishes can be:

Polished Chrome: Also referred to as high polish, chrome or bright.

Brushed Satin: Also known as rough polish or matt (although matt is another type of finish) or satin

Matt: Gradually becoming obsolete, in minority use.

Note: To find out more about the satin finish's type of grain, please contact us.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Most stainless steel is of the AISI 304 type, also known as 18-8 (referring to its chrome and nickel content). Under ISO norm Type-11.

This type of steel is non-ferrous. You can test this by placing it close to a magnet, and you will see how it does not stick. Ferrous steels, which are therefore likely to rust, on the other hand would stick.

This type of stainless steel is highly resistant to atmospheric rust, neutral humid environments, alkaline corrosion, acid (non-chlorinated) environments, and offers good resistance to corrosion at temperatures of up to 900°C.

### GENERAL REGULAR CLEANING

#### Cleaning Product:

Gentle Domestic Liquid Soap.  
Water.

#### Method of Cleaning:

Use a duster, a soft washing cloth or soft sponge, dipped in soapy water.  
Always wipe away any residual soap with clean water.  
Thoroughly dry the treated surface using a clean soft cloth.

If the product is subjected to hostile environments, such as salt (near the sea), intense humidity, chlorinated (swimming pools), hard water, etc. a further treatment in addition to regular cleaning is recommended involving the application of a household product containing silicon.

## GENERAL CLEANING TIPS FOR STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES

### Cleaning medium resistance stains such as fingerprints

**Cleaning Product:**

Same as "GENERAL REGULAR CLEANING".  
May require specific household products for stainless steel.

**Method of Cleaning:**

Proceed in the same way as with regular cleaning. If using specific household products, follow the manufacturer's instructions, ensuring that the product is in liquid or cream form. If using sprays, apply the product onto the cloth, not directly onto the surface to be treated.

### High resistance stains - Discolouration due to atmospheric agents

**Cleaning Product:**

If the processes in "GENERAL REGULAR CLEANING" do not provide satisfactory results, use (with care) household products for cleaning chrome, degreaser or dissolving products. Never products specifically designed for tin or copper, since they can affect the colour of the steel.

**Cleaning Method:**

Proceed in the same way as with regular cleaning. In the case of using specific household products, follow the manufacturer's instructions, ensuring that the products are in liquid or cream form. Before treating the entire affected surface, carry out a test on a small area.

### Mineral stains - Limescale or hard water

**Cleaning Product:**

Dilute 5% of white vinegar in water.  
Specific household products for treating limescale, with a silicon protector base (containing acetic or phosphoric acid).

**Cleaning Method:**

Proceed in the same way as with regular cleaning. In the event of using specific household products, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Before treating the entire affected surface, carry out a test on a small area.

## GENERAL CLEANING TIPS FOR STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES

### Rust stains - Caused by inadequate cleaning

#### Inadequate cleaning:

Cleaning steel with hydrochloric acid or chlorinated bleaches will cause rust to appear. As well as the use of products with a hydrochloric acid base, developing solutions, other strong acids, concentrated disinfectants, chlorine and strong alkalis, such as caustic soda. If any of these liquids come in contact with stainless steel it should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water.

Check the components of the cleaning products used, since there are very aggressive products on the market.

#### Cleaning Product:

Seek out household products suitable for rust removal on stainless steel.

#### Cleaning Method:

Polish gently and carefully in the direction of the grain or lines. NOTE: This method only applies to satin finishes (rough polish), never to bright finishes (high polish).

### General Instructions

- Before applying any treatment, totally remove the plastic protection from the stainless steel.
- The printed markings come off easily when the processes described above are applied. Therefore, where possible prevent application on top of the logos or other printed markings. As a general rule, use only a soft cloth dipped in soapy water.
- Always dry the treated surface using a soft cloth.
- Applying certain cleaning treatments can change the tone of a products finish therefore it may be necessary to treat the entire product. Test a small area first.
- Do not use rough cloths, paper cloths or scouring pads.
- Do not use products containing petrol or hydrochloric acids. Pay special attention to the components of cleaning products, especially those specifically for cleaning bathrooms.
- In exceptional cases, polish very specific areas and with extreme care. Subsequently, apply a soft cloth dipped in soapy water and dry thoroughly.