

MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Stainless Steel Care & Maintenance



Despite its name, stainless steel can and does stain, so it needs to be cleaned to prevent surface rusting or “pitting” and to preserve its natural corrosion resistance. Stainless steel actually thrives with frequent cleaning, and, unlike some other materials, it is impossible to “wear out” stainless steel by excessive cleaning.

We recommend regular cleaning and inspection of our stainless steel products to help prevent product contamination and surface rusting. The simplest, safest, and least costly method that will adequately do the job is always the best method. In selecting cleaning practices, consider the possibility of scratching and the potential for post-cleaning corrosion caused by incompletely removed cleaners. The best preventative measure is to avoid using abrasive cleaners unless absolutely necessary. When abrasives are needed, first experiment on an inconspicuous area.

The chart below describes various methods for removing general accumulation of dirt, grime and surface stains that occur during normal handling and exposure to the elements.

Effective Cleaning Methods

Job	Cleaning Agents*	Comments
Routine Cleaning	Warm Water, Soap, Ammonia, Detergent	Apply with sponge or soft cloth. Can be applied to all finishes.
Fingerprints and Smears	3M Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish, Arcal 20, Lac-O-Nu, Lumin Wash, O’Cedar Cream Polish, Stainless Shine	Provides barrier film to minimize fingerprints. Can be applied to all finishes.
Stubborn Stains and Discoloration	3M Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish, Allchem Concentrated Cleaner, Samae, Twinkle, Cameo Copper Cleaner, Grade FFF or Grade F Italian Pumice, Whiting or talc, Liquid Nu Steel, Copper’s or Revere Stainless Steel Cleaner, Household Cleaners, Lumin Cleaner, Zud Restoro, Sta-Clean, Highlite, Allen Polish, Penny-Brite, Copper-Brite	Rub lightly, using dry damp cloth, in the direction of polish lines on the stainless steel. Surface rusting (pitting) may require use of a Scotch-Brite Power Pad. This is particularly useful when rubbing is not effective.
Grease and Oil	Any good commercial detergent or caustic cleanser.	Apply with sponge or soft cloth in direction of polish lines.

*NOTE: Use of proprietary names is intended only to indicate a type of cleaner and does not constitute an endorsement. Omission of any proprietary cleanser does not imply its inadequacy. All products should be used in strict accordance with instructions on package.

