



# Care & Maintenance - Stainless Steel



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## ***Stainless Steel Surfaces***

### ***Why Does it Need Routine Cleaning?***

Routine cleaning is necessary to preserve the appearance and integrity of the surface. Stainless steels are easily cleaned by many different methods. They actually thrive with frequent cleaning, and unlike some other materials, it is impossible to “wear out” stainless steel by excessive cleaning.

Additionally, stainless steels need to be cleaned to preserve corrosion resistance. Stainless steel is protected from corrosion by a thin layer of chromium oxide. Oxygen combines with the chromium in the stainless steel to form a thin chromium oxide film that protects from corrosion. Any contamination of the surface by dirt, or other material, hinders this process and traps corrosive agents, reducing corrosion protection.

### ***General Care***

Use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry.

### ***Fingerprints and Smears***

Use an approved cleaner to polish the surface. These add to the barrier film to minimize fingerprints and can be used on all finishes.

### ***Stubborn Stains***

Use a recommended cleaner to rub lightly with a dry to damp cloth in the direction of the polish lines on the stainless steel.

***Be sure to read and follow the recommended care and cleaning procedures to avoid damage.***



- **Avoid cleaning with chloride-containing detergents.**
- **Avoid the use of oily rags or greasy cloths on the surface.**
- Even the finest cleaning powders can scratch or burnish a mill-rolled finish. On polished finishes, rubbing or wiping should be done in the direction for the polish lines. **NOT** across them.
- **DO NOT USE SOLVENTS** in closed spaces or near open flames.
- Ordinary carbon steel brushes or steel wool should be avoided as they may leave particles embedded leading to **RUSTING**.
- Cleaning should always be followed by rinsing in clean hot water.
- Avoid chlorine, acetone, methyl alcohol and mineral spirits.
- Avoid getting particle board core wet

### ***Recommended Cleaning Agents***

- Bon Ami Polishing Cleanser Powder
- Heinz White Vinegar
- 3M 14002 Stainless Steel Cleaner & Polish
- Weiman Stainless Steel Cleaner & Polish
- Bar Keepers Friend Soft Cleanser
- Therapy Stainless Steel Cleaner & Polish
- Lac-O-Nu
- Lumin Wash
- O’Cedar Cream Polish
- Stainless Shine
- Cameo Copper Cleaner
- Penny-Brite
- Copper-Brite
- Scotch-Brite Power Pad

***Many adhesive-backed papers and plastic sheets or tape applied to stainless steel for protection “age” in fairly short periods of time and become extremely difficult to remove.***