

Info sheet for the **STAINLESS STEEL CARE:**
„How to keep it looking good for longer“



A basic distinction in the cleaning and maintenance of stainless steel in construction between basic cleaning or initial cleaning and maintenance cleaning or care.

- **Basic cleaning or initial cleaning:** Should follow immediately after mounting.
- **Maintenance cleaning or care:** Should be done every three to twelve months depending on regional conditions like industrial atmosphere with exhaust gas containing air, salt air in coastal areas, rust caused by abrasion of iron, ...
- **Outdoor area:** Naturally, outdoor stainless steel, such as railings and canopies, requires a little more care than indoor elements. This applies in particular to areas where the environment may affect the steel. The air by the coast is very salty, for example, while chloride or sulphur dioxide affect stainless steel near industrial areas.

Nevertheless, a shower of rain is often all that is needed to remove any staining.

Anyone wishing to do a bit more to preserve the look and durability of the stainless steel might like to carry out some routine cleaning.

This should be done every three to six months or so in an „aggressive environment“ or every six to twelve months in less aggressive environments.

Water and a clean cloth are usually sufficient to achieve clean result. Of course, special phosphoric acid-based stainless steel cleaners can also be used. They remove foreign iron particles. The entire surface of an element should always be treated in order to achieve an even, stainless finish.

- **Indoor area:** Indoors, cleaning is usually limited to removing fingermarks. These can be particularly noticeable at the beginning in the case of new stainless steel surfaces, but become considerably less noticeable after several cleanings.

Please note: products containing chloride or acid should never be used for cleaning. Bleaching and silver cleaning agents are also unsuitable for stainless steel.

Tip: Always clean parallel to the grain and not across it when dealing with brushed or ground surfaces.

Problem	Type of contamination	Solution
Protective foil	If stainless steel is covered in the new state with a protective foil, this must be removed early. Otherwise the foil can glueing with the stainless steel and many foils are not continual to ultraviolet rays.	If its necessary, warm up the foil, e.x. with an hairdryer and remove them slowly. Remaining glue leftovers can be carefully removed with spiritus.
Lime/mortar	Just for new constructions and reconstructions, stainless steel can be contaminated by lime or mortar splashes, which are harden on the material.	Remove impurities with phosphoric acid, afterwards rinse with clear water and dry to prevent lime stains. Do not use any cement residue remover or diluted hydrochloric acid!
Iron particle	In the context of building activities, like for example by sharpening or cutting at steel, develop fine iron particles, which can settle on the surface. Iron particles must be removed immediately because they can penetrate the stainless steel's passive layer and cause corrosion.	To the cleaning are particularly special sponges or special cleaning agents suitable. These only helps, if no damage has occurred at the stainless steel surface. If corrosion already shows up, a pickling treatment and a following polish are necessary.
Corrosion	Stainless Steel can also rust through damage to the surface. Here, a quick remedy is needed to avoid the spread of rust.	Treat the attacked places with special stains. This restores the protective function of the surface. However it may cause slightvisual changes, such as for example deterioration, which can be solved by carefully grinding or polishing.
Finger prints	Fingerprints are hardly to be avoided and can be removed fast and easily.	Affected areas just clean with washing-up liquid. Alternatively you can use also special cleaner which cover the stainless steel with a wafer-thin protective film, which can lead to an even surface optic.
Stubborn contamination	Stained areas that can not be eliminated by simple wiping off, need a special treatment.	Usually a simple household cleansing milk is enough but these may not contain scrubbing particles. Subsequently, rinse the surface off also with clear water. The application of distilled water prevents the education of lime remains.
Oil and grease	Strong oily and greasy dirt.	The best cleaning in several passes to perform with an alcohol-based cleaners such as alcohol or acetone with a clean cloth and over again to remove any cleaning residue.
Paint residues	During renovation work, splashes of color can reach to unprotected stainless steel surfaces.	Cleaning agents containing alkaline or solvent-based components. Remove paint residues easily and cleanly.

Remember – „Also stainless steel needs care“