

That stainless steel
looks always noble

Tips for cleaning and
maintenance



Easy to clean from the basis

The good news around cleaning and maintenance is, stainless steel needs only less maintenance and contaminations are mostly easy to remove. The reason for that is the surface of stainless steel: there is no need for organic or metallic coatings and it keeps its glance for a very long time.

Stainless steel consists instead of a so-called 'passive coating'. This is extremely thin and invisible for the human eyes. It offers a very good protection against corrosion. The coating renews itself after impacts by the means of oxygen in the air or of the water. Up to a certain degree it 'repairs' itself.

Nevertheless appropriate cleaning and maintenance can assure durability and elegance of stainless steel even longer.



Maintenance: That it stays longer beautiful

Outside area:

In the outside area, e.g. on balustrades and canopies, stainless steel needs for sure more maintenance compared to the interior use. This is especially valid in areas with higher impact to the stainless steel due to environmental influences. The air in coastal areas is very salty, near industrial areas the stainless steel is affected by chlorides and sulphur dioxide.

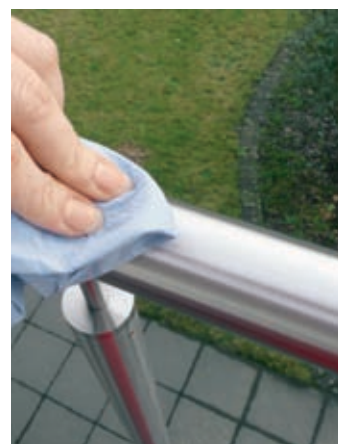
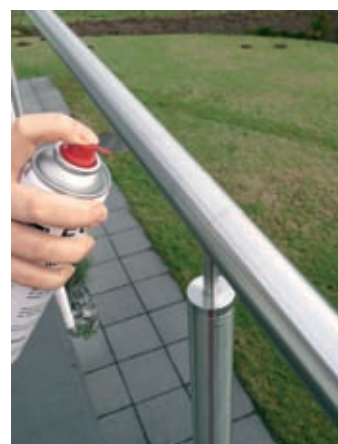
Nevertheless very often a short rain shower is enough to eliminate contaminations. Who wants to do something more for the durability of stainless steel, has to clean regularly. In 'aggressive atmosphere', it should be done every three to six months. In less aggressive environmental conditions the maintenance can be executed every six to twelve months.

Water and a clean cloth are normally enough for a clean result. On heavily affected surfaces cleaning products of the automotive sector might help: a chrome polish brings back a lost glance. Special polish pastes are bringing the glance back as well.

Stainless steel cleaners on basis of phosphoric acid can also be used. These remove iron particles. The whole surface of one part should always be treated in order to get a constant, stainless result.

Interior area:

In interior application cleaning is mostly for the removal of finger prints. These are especially visible on new stainless steel surfaces. After several cleaning actions their visibility gets lost more and more. Attention: never use for maintenance and cleaning products comprising of chlorine and acid. Bleaching agents and means for cleaning silver are not recommendable. On brushed or grinded surfaces the cleaning action has to be done parallel to the grinding and not across.



Cloth, sponge & co

For the cleaning of stainless steel, generally means of cleaning without iron should be used. Otherwise the stainless steel surface will be destroyed.

A well sorted set for cleaning and maintenance consists of:

- a cloth and/or a leather
- a sponge (attention: no scouring sponge or steel wool!)
- a nylon brush for grinded surfaces
- a special stainless steel cleaner or another suitable cleaner
- a bottle of non-mineralised water (for no lime-scales after wet cleaning)

For further question on cleaning and maintenance please contact us under +49-2291-9206-420. Our stainless steel specialists are pleased to help you.



Cleaning: That's how it gets clean again

The following chart offers an overview how to remove different contaminations from stainless steel.

	Description of contamination	Removing
Protective film	If stainless steel is laminated with a protection film, it has to be removed early, otherwise there is a risk of gluing together.	The folio can be heated if necessary and has to be removed then slowly and carefully. Residual adhesives can be eliminated carefully with ethyl alcohol.
lime-/ cement	Even in new constructing areas stainless steel parts can contaminated with lime or cement that are going to harden on the stainless steel.	Residuals can also be removed by using phosphoric acid and then treated with clear water and then kept dry (this prevents from lime-scales). Never use cement residue cleaner or depleted hydrochloric acid!
Iron particles	Due to grinding and cuttings works on the construction site there is a risk of small iron particles that can be deposit on the stainless steel surface. These have to be removed immediately, because they can destroy the passive coating and cause corrosion.	Especially usable for cleaning are the so-called iron-free cleaning sponges or special means of cleaning. But these can only be helpful if the surface is not destroyed. The corrosion already started, only a stain treatment and polishing afterwards will help (execution by specialists).
corrosion	By damages on the surface stainless steel can start to rust. The dispersion of corrosion has to be stopped immediately.	The affected areas have to be treated with special stains. This renews the protective surface. Optical changes on the surface can happen (like haze). These can be removed by use of polish.
finger prints	They are hardly to avoid, but they can be removed easily.	Simply clean affected areas by using dish liquid. Alternative: use special cleaner that create a protective coating film on the stainless steel. This leads to a smooth surface optic.
Adamantine contaminations	Contaminated surfaces that cannot easily be cleaned need a special treatment.	Usually a standard household cleaning-milk without scouring particles is enough. Afterwards treat the surface with clear non-mineralised water.
oil and fat	Heavy oil and fat contamination	Cleaning can be effected best with cleaners containing ethylic alcohol or acetone in several procedures with always a new clean cloth. Remove the cleaner completely.
rests of paint	During renovation paint splashes can reach unprotected areas on the stainless steel surface.	Cleaners with alkaline components or based on solvents remove paint rests completely and without any problem.



A bit of maintenance needs to be:

Stainless steel needs only few maintenance and most contamination can easily be removed. Nevertheless the durability of stainless steel can be prolonged even in areas of heavy environmental impact by the right way of maintenance.



For our stainless steel products, like canopies and balustrades – especially in the outside area, we have stainless steel maintenance in our product range.



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