DELABIE | DVS

Cleaning and care of stainless steel products

All products made from Stainless Steel thrive from frequent cleaning and unlike other materials, it is impossible to “wear out” from excessive cleaning. Stainless Steel, like any surface exposed to the environment gets dirty from a variety of contaminants. These contaminants come from many sources ranging from grease, oil, bleach or just everyday use.

Any contaminant must be cleaned from the product immediately, especially after installation, with warm soapy water and applied with cloths made of a natural or artificial fibre, chamois leather, absorbent cloth, sponge or brushes with a natural or plastic bristle. All stainless steel surfaces should be cleaned on a regular basis.

Steel wool, scouring pads, scouring powder or sandpaper should **NOT** be used on Stainless Steel as these can scratch and damage the material. If the product is covered in a protective film, this should be removed immediately as the action of heat and light can cause it to stick to the surface and make it difficult to remove at a later date.

Providing that the stainless steel products are cleaned and maintained regularly, using the correct cleaning materials, the product should last the life of the building into which they are installed.

Products not to be used on stainless steel:

- Bleach
- Abrasive Sponge Pads
- Abrasive Cleaning Creams
- Steel Wool
- Wire Brushes
- Solutions containing Chloride

Regular cleaning

- Wash down the surface regularly using water containing soap or mild detergents
- Always rinse the surface with clean water
- A thorough cleaning operation can be completed by polishing the surface with a soft dry cloth

Cleaning aids

Always avoid using coarse abrasive materials such as harsh scouring pads, wire wool etc. which can scratch a stainless steel surface. In addition, metal particles left on the surface can quickly turn to rust and leave rust stains on the stainless steel. Use brushed and scrubbers etc. which utilise mild or soft bristles such as nylon (or similar).

DELABIE | DVS

Cleaning methods

Requirement	Suggested cleaning method and comments	
Routine cleaning of light soiling	Soap, detergent or dilute (1%) ammonia solution in warm clean water. Apply with a clean sponge, soft cloth or soft-fibre brush then rinse in clean water and dry. This method is satisfactory on most surfaces.	
Fingerprints	Detergent and warm water, alternatively, hydrocarbon solvent. Proprietary spray-applied polishes available to clean and minimise re-marking.	
Oil and grease marks	Hydrocarbon solvents (methylated spirit, isopropyl alcohol or acetone). Alkaline formulations are also available with surfactant additions e.g.'D7' Polish.	
Stubborn spots, stains and light discolouration. Water marking. Light rust staining	Mild, non-scratching creams and polishes. Apply with soft cloth or soft sponge and rinse off residues with clean water and dry. Avoid cleaning pastes with abrasive additions. Suitable cream cleansers are available with soft calcium carbonate additions, e.g. 'Jif', or with the addition of citric acid, e.g. Shiny Sinks. Do not use chloride solutions.	
Localised rust stains caused by carbon steel contamination	Proprietary gels, or 10% phosphoric acid solution (followed by ammonia and water rinses), or oxalic acid solution (followed by water rinse). Small areas may be treated with a rubbing block comprising fine abrasive in a hard rubber or plastic filler. Carbon steel wool should not be used, nor should pads that have previously been used on carbon steel. A test should be carried out to ensure that the original surface finish is not damaged.	
Burnt on food or carbon deposits	Pre-soak in hot water with detergent or ammonia solution. Remove deposits with nylon brush and fine scouring powder if necessary. Repeat if necessary and finish with 'routine cleaning'. Abrasive souring powder can leave scratch marks on polished surfaces.	
Tannin (tea) stains and oily deposits in coffee urns	Tannin stains - soak in a hot solution of washing soda i.e. sodium carbonate. Coffee deposits - soak in a hot solution of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). These solutions can also be applied with a soft cloth or sponge. Rinse with clean water. Satisfactory on most surfaces.	
Adherent hard water scales and mortar/cement splashes	10-15 volume % solution of phosphoric acid. Use warm, neutralise with dilute ammonia solution, rinse with clean water and dry. Alternatively soak in a 25% vinegar solution and use a nylon brush to remove deposits. Proprietary formulations available with surfactant additions. Take special care when using hydrochloric acid based mortar removers.	
Heating or heavy discolouration	a) Non-scratching cream or polish e.g. Solvol Auto Chrome Metal Polish. a) Creams are suitable for most finishes, but only use 'Solvol' on bright polished surfaces. Some slight scratching can be left.	b) Nylon-type pad, e.g. 'Scotchbrite' b) Use on brushed and polished finishes along the grain.
Badly neglected surfaces with accumulated grime deposits	A fine, abrasive paste as used for car body refinishing, e.g. 'T-cut' rinsed clean to remove all paste material and dried. May brighten dull finishes. To avoid a patchy appearance, the whole surface may need to be treated.	
Paint, graffiti	Proprietary alkaline or solvent paint strippers, depending upon paint type. Use soft nylon or bristle brush on patterned surfaces. Apply as directed by manufacturer.	