

CLEANING METHODS FOR STAINLESS STEELS

Stainless steel is very easy to clean. A wash with soap or mild detergent and warm water followed by a clear water rinse is usually quite adequate for domestic and architectural equipment. Where stainless steel has become extremely dirty with signs of surface discolouration (perhaps following products of neglect, or missue) alternative methods of cleaning can be used, as outlined below.

REQUIREMENT	SUGGESTED METHOD	COMMENTS
<i>Routine cleaning of light soiling</i>	Soap, detergent or dilute (1%) ammonia solution in warm clean water. Apply with a clean sponge, soft cloth or soft-fibrebrush then rinse with clean water and dry.	Satisfactory on most surfaces
<i>Fingerprints</i>	Detergent and warm water, alternatively, hydrocarbon solvent.	Propriety spray-applied polishes available to clean and minimise marking.
<i>Oil and grease marks</i>	Hydricarbon solvents (methylated spirit, isopropyl alcohol or acetone).	Alkaline formulations are also available with surfactant additions e.g. 'D7' polish.
<i>Stubborn spots, stains and light discolouration. Water marking, light rust staining.</i>	Mild, non-scratching creams or polishes. Apply with a soft cloth or 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. Shiny Sinks Do NOT USE chloride solutions.
<i>Localised rust stains caused by carbon steel contamination</i>	Propreitary gels, or 10% phospheric 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 is not damaged.

<i>Burnt on food or carbon deposits</i>	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 scouring powder can leave scratch marks on polished surfaces.
<i>Tannin (tea) stains</i>	Soak in a hot solution of washing soda i.e. sodium carbonate.	These solutions can also be applied with a soft cloth or sponge.
<i>Oily deposits in coffee urns</i>	Soak in a hot solution of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate).	Rinse with clean water. Satisfactory on most surfaces.
<i>Adherent hard water scales and mortar/cement splashes</i>	10-15 volume % solution of phosphoric acid. Use warm water, 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 on mortar removers.
<i>Heating or heavy discolouration</i>	a) Non-scratching cream or polish e.g. Solvol auto Chrom Metal Polish. b) Nylon-type pad, e.g. Scotchbrite	a) Creams are suitable for most finished, but can only see 'Solvol' on bright polishes surfaces. Some slight scratching can be left. b) Use on brushed and polished finishes along with the grain.
<i>Badly neglected surfaces with accumulated grime deposits</i>	A fine, abrasive paste as used for car body refinishing e.g. T-Cut, rinsed clean to remove all paste materials and dried.	May brighten dull finishes. To avoid a patchy appearance, the whole surface may need to be treated.
<i>Paint, graffiti</i>	Proprietary alkaline or solvent paint strippers, depending upon paint type. Use soft nylon or bristle brush on patterned surfaces.	Apply as directed by manufacturer.