

Care and maintenance of stainless steel

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Products manufactured from stainless steel (stainless steel 1.4301 / AISI 304), are rust-resistant.
- A rust-like surface discolouration is normally caused by oxidization of the surface, due in the majority of cases to the incorrect usage of cleaning products. Cleaning products which contain hydrochloric acid, including when improperly diluted, can damage stainless steel surfaces! The same is true for the prolonged use of strong lyes.
- Particularly damaging is the improper use of cement residue removers employed in sanitary facilities where stainless steel or chromed products have already been installed.
- Base metal particles, in particular from rusted iron alloys, which come into contact with the surface can also lead to corrosion, whereby the protective, passive surface of the stainless steel is damaged.
- Stainless steel products should therefore be protected from such particles, especially during the processing stage (welding, sawing or grinding = flying sparks!).
- Direct contact with base metals can also lead to corrosion.

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR STAINLESS STEEL MAINTENANCE

Attention!

- Halogen elements (iodine, chlorine, bromine and similar) reduce the resistance of the stainless steel.
- Do not use any chlorine solutions (bleach)!
- The normal use of stainless steel results in a uniform surface (patina); abrasive cloths, powder, scouring pads and similar items can alter or damage the natural structure and leave unsightly scratches on the surface!

Cleaning

- Rinsing and successive rinsing with cold water helps to prevent the formation of limescale deposits (also true for armature units).

Cleaning Materials

- Vinegar solution (80% water, 20% vinegar).
- Lemon juice with table salt dissolved in water removes most stains.
- Toothpaste is a good agent for removing light scratches and incrustations.
- Mild household cleaners and window cleaners are suitable for cleaning stainless steel as long as they do not contain any abrasive agents.
- You can also use various specialist stainless steel cleaners, but please pay special attention to the concentration instructions.
- A mild cleanser can be used on matt stainless steel surfaces (no abrasive powder).
- Always rinse well with clean water after cleaning.

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Maintenance

- (Grease) stains can be avoided through the use of different household cleaning materials such as Vaseline, hand creams, furniture or car polish, which lend a matt sheen.
- Ammonium hydroxide will also bring a shine to the surface.

CLEANING TOOLS

SUITABLE	NOT SUITABLE
All customary cleaning materials for stainless steel, stainless steel 1.4301/AISI 304.	
Brushes with natural, stainless steel or synthetic material bristles. <i>Not suitable for highly polished stainless steel products!</i>	Brushes with bristles manufactured from unalloyed steel wire or grit bristles (synthetic bristles with abrasives).
Textiles manufactured from natural and synthetic fibres. Microfibre cloths are ideal for removing hand and fingerprints from the surface.	
Synthetic fleece without abrasives. <i>This type of fleece may nevertheless scratch highly polished stainless steel.</i>	Abrasive fleece.
Stainless steel wire wool <i>Not suitable for highly polished stainless steel products!</i>	Non-stainless steel wire wool, as abrasion causes extraneous rust.
For matt surfaces: whiting, silica gel, magnesia, magnesium carbonate.	Carborundum, corundum (silicon carbide), emery, quartz, feldspar, pumice
Chamois leather, sponges, sponge cloths.	Scouring pads, sand paper.
Pressure washers or steam jet degreasers.	

Subject to technical modifications in so far as these serve the further development of the products. Last amended 03/08.