

Care of your Stainless Steel, Brass and Zinc Plated products

The term 'stainless steel' means exactly that, "stain less", rather than "no stain steel".

Maintenance

It is recommended to use a good stainless steel cleaner, such as Steel Kleen (by Hillmark) on a regular basis to prevent 'tea staining' (see below). This will leave a protective film on the surface of your stainless steel.

Stainless steel unfortunately still requires to be maintained as does any product left in the elements.

Tea staining can occur when iron oxide particles in the air land on the product, then causing a tea stain. This usually affects the horizontal surfaces; however, it can be removed, by cleaning with a nylon scourer and gumption, and/or a metal paste cleaner. Remove any excess immediately after cleaning.

All external lock components should be cleaned with a dilute solution of a mild liquid detergent in warm water. Avoid hot water. Use a soft clean cloth to clean the surface, a gentle abrasive cloth or soft bristle toothbrush may be used to remove ingrained grit.

After cleaning, rinse with clean water or a clean damp cloth, and then dry.

Do not use bore water due to its high mineral content, as it can stain the finish and progress to long term finish damage.

Soft finishes such as brass, polished brass, PVD gold, chrome plate, etc. need special care. Dirt or other contaminants must not be allowed to build up on the surface.

Under NO circumstances should any cleaning product be used. The cleaning product may contain solvents which may damage the protective coating.

These finishes should only be wiped with a soft cloth and then polished with silicone-based spray. This should be done approximately every two (2) months.

A visual inspection should be carried out every month to determine the optimum cleaning frequency i.e. every 3 months for low salt content environments, to monthly for coastal fringes.

Stain Cleaning Tips

Do not go against the grain!

Always rub stainless steel in the same direction as the grain. Rubbing against the grain will spoil the finish and stainless will lose its shine. Worse still, rubbing against the grain can damage the surface by creating microscopic crevices where dirt can collect. This can lead to corrosion spots.

Fortunately, it is usually easy to tell which is the right direction.

If you must scrub a stain to remove it, make sure you use a clean nylon scourer or a cloth with chalk-based cream cleaner. Test an inconspicuous area first as you could end up with a bright polished spot which does not match the rest of the surface.