

Maintenance of Stainless Steel

Retaining the attractive finish of stainless steel is improved with a few simple maintenance steps. When maintained properly, stainless steel will retain its visual appeal and structural integrity in a wide range of applications and environments.

Vetro Raccordi Stainless Steel products are designed to be durable, low maintenance, resistant to corrosion and easily maintained resulting in a high quality, pleasing appearance.

Cleaning Stainless Steel

Stainless Steel is best cleaned using a mild detergent and a soft cloth. After washing, rinse in clean, cold water and wipe the surface dry with a soft absorbent cloth. Drying afterwards ensures there are no streaky marks left on the surface.

Retaining Surface Integrity

Stainless steel looks best if its cleaned regularly and correctly which prevents stubborn stains building up. The level of cleaning and maintenance depends primarily on its environment where the product is situated.



Salt deposits and tea staining occurs most commonly within about five kilometres of the coast.

1. Sea Side

When Stainless Steel is located in a coastal environment, tea staining of surface can occur. Tea staining is discolouration of the surface of stainless steel by corrosion. It is a cosmetic issue that does not affect the structural integrity or the lifetime of the material. Tea staining occurs most commonly within about five kilometres of the surf and becomes progressively worse closer to the marine source. Regular washing also removes deposits (such as salt) that can cause corrosion. In these instances it is recommended that cleaning is performed fortnightly.



2. Interior

Dirt, grease and fingerprints can accumulate from many sources. These can be removed by routine cleaning using a mild detergent and a soft cloth. After washing, rinse in clean, cold water and wipe the surface dry with a soft absorbent cloth. Drying afterwards ensures there are no streaky marks left on the surface. If a mild detergent or dishwashing liquid doesn't shift unsightly stains / fingermarks, then wipe over with glass cleaner on a soft cloth. You can also use a small amount of alcohol, methylated spirits, acetone or mineral turpentine. Then rinse with clean water and dry. You can give longer protection to high traffic areas by lightly rubbing with olive oil or baby oil followed by a polish and shine using a soft cloth.



3. Exterior

In most exterior environments normal rain washing is sufficient, but in more polluted or coastal regions the surfaces will require regular washing to retain its pristine condition. (see above in sea side for more details) Discolouration or a tea staining effect most commonly occurs within 5 kilometres of the coast and becomes progressively worse closer to the water. For rust or tougher stains apply a cream cleanser with a soft damp cloth, rub gently then rinse with clean cold water. Dry with an absorbent soft cloth.

Surface Protection

It is important to know that Stainless Steel can be scratched so it is important to be aware that harsh abrasives, steel wool or plastic scourers must NEVER be used. Cloths used to rub over the stainless steel must be free of grit or chemicals and always avoid vigorous rubbing.

Strong mineral acids such as hydrochloric, hydrofluoric acid or bleach should never be permitted to come in contact with Stainless Steel. If this should happen, the solution must be washed off immediately with plenty of water.

Never use oil based commercial cleaners as the residual oil film can result in an unwanted iridescent colour on Stainless Steel.

Environment	Maintenance Schedule
Seafront / Chlorinated Pool	Fortnightly
Coastal (within 5km of coast)	Monthly
Industrial and Urban	Every 3-6 months
Suburban Rural	Annually or as required
Internal	As required to maintain appearance

Please note:

Unless regular maintenance of the Stainless Steel surface occurs to the appropriate schedule, discolouration will increase over normal standards.

Maintenance of Chrome Plated Brass

All metals are prone to gradually tarnish due to oxidation. Chrome is a very high-shine metal, so any smudges, grime or rust can be highly visible, however genuine chrome plating is also quite tough so it can be cleaned to ensure that it maintains its mirror-like finish.

Chrome Notes:

- You do not polish chrome, you clean it.
- Unlike aluminium and stainless steel, chrome does not oxidize much. It is an extremely hard coating and usually very thin (a few millimetres) plated.
- People have tried many types of polishes, including expensive ones, and have found nothing that will remove scratches from chrome. Once scratched, you live with it or re-chrome it.

Chrome Plating Process:

- 1) Copper underlay – a filler.
- 2) Nickel – for the mirror colour.
- 3) Hard Chrome – outer surface.

Brass notes:

- Please avoid using any cleaning solutions that contain acids which will eat through the chrome plating and eventually corrode the underlying brass material.

Brass content:

Brass is the luminous alloy of copper and zinc. Long term oxidation of this material will result in first a bronze tarnish, then turn dark brown, and eventually a blue-green patina.

Cleaning Materials:

- Sponge – Natural or artificial
- Nylon or other soft-bristle material brush
- Soft cloths such as cotton terry or chamois or microfibre cloth
- NOTE: Never use paper towels, paper-based wipes, cellulose or plastic sponges as well as fake chamois cloths as they are highly abrasive and could mar the chrome finish.

Recommended Cleaning Solutions:

- Hand dishwashing liquid/soft water solution
- Mild soap/soft water solution
- White vinegar/soft water solution
- Club soda and sponge
- NOTE: To clean sticky or hard built-up material we suggest using baking soda and a damp sponge or a non-alcohol glass cleaner. Check a small area for streaking or fading before applying on entire surface.