



Cleaning and Maintenance of Stainless Steel

Introduction

For the preservation of stainless Steel Glass Vice® Products strongly recommends regular maintenance. The following provides a guide to preserving stainless.

Exterior

Like all surfaces, stainless steel requires cleaning to remove dirt and grime to keep them in pristine condition. The level of cleaning and maintenance depends primarily on the environment. In some exterior instances normal rain washing is sufficient, eg. Roofing, but more polluted or corrosive environments e.g. coastal situations, the surfaces require regular washing to retain their good looks.

Coastal situations – Discolouration or tea staining most commonly occurs within 5 kilometres of the coast and becomes progressively worse closer to the water. Note that in situations right on the seafront it is recommended that cleaning is performed once a month.

Interior

Dirt and grease accumulate from many sources. They can usually be removed by routine cleaning using soap, ammonia or detergent and warm water. It should be noted that nearly all abrasive cleaners will scratch bright polished stainless steel surfaces. On other finishes the cleaners should be used in the direction of the polish.

A clean, dust and grit free cloth should be used to avoid scratching.

In all cases the mildest cleaning procedure that will do the job efficiently should be used e.g. wash down with warm water and washing up liquid followed by a wash of clean warm water only followed by wiping dry with a clean absorbent cloth.

After initial installation, the stainless steel will require thorough cleaning to remove any adhesive – either from the protective coating or other building operations.

Precautions

Harsh abrasives should never be used on any polished metal surface.

Strong mineral acids such as hydrochloric and sometimes hydrofluoric acid are used to clean masonry, but these should never be permitted to come in contact with stainless steel or any other metal work. If this should happen, the acid solution should be washed off immediately with plenty of water.

Pads of ordinary steel wool incorporating soap should be avoided – there is a danger of particles of plain carbon steel from the pads being left behind after rinsing to give unsightly rust stains.

Glass Vice® Products are manufactured in marine grade 316 Stainless steel and applicable to coastal environments.

Cleaning Methods		
Requirement	Method	Comments
Routine cleaning (this is important in Coastal areas)	Soap, detergent and warm water Sponge with soft brush then rinse with clean water and dry	Satisfactory on all surfaces Situations directly on the seafront require cleaning once a month
Fingerprints	Detergent and warm water	Satisfactory on all surfaces

Cleaning Frequency

Environment	Type 316
Seafront	Monthly
Coastal (within 5km of the coast)	6-12 months
Industrial and Urban	6-12 months
Suburban Rural	Annually or as required
Internal	As required to maintain appearance