

# Maintaining & Cleaning Stainless Steel

Stainless steel is not maintenance free, but maintenance friendly. When using stainless steel outdoors you need to clean periodically, more often in environments such as coastal areas or around swimming pools. In most applications stainless steel will not rust or stain even after years of service, but it is not rust or stain proof. With proper care and maintenance, stainless steel can remain beautiful and functional for many years even when exposed to harsh environments.

## For Best Results:

Clean the stainless steel with soapy water, wash off with clean water then wipe dry with soft, clean fabric. If this is unsuccessful you can use glass cleaner, or small amounts of alcohol, methylated spirits, acetone or mineral turpentine.

Use a stainless polish to help fight off mineral deposits, pollutants and finger marks etc. We recommend and sell several brands including products from NanoCoat, Peek, INOX Lanox and 3M.

## Tea Staining

Tea Staining is a discoloration of the surface of stainless steel that does not affect the structural integrity and life of the material (note: this is not rust). It more commonly happens with in 5km of the surf however can occur 20km or more from sea

water with exposure to wind, industrial pollution levels and higher temperatures. The main cause of tea staining is salt deposited on the surface.



# Cleaning and Maintenance

*For Stainless Steel*

## Problem

## Cleaning Agent

## Comments

\*In general, it is recommended to hose down stainless steel products every 2-4 week in addition to your regular cleaning schedule. Routine cleaning using soap or mild detergent should occur every **2-4 months in coastal areas** or **4-6 months in urban areas**.

<b>Routine cleaning for all finishes</b>	Soap or mild detergent and water (preferably warm)	Sponge, rinse with clean water and wipe dry if necessary. Follow polish lines for satin finishes.
<b>Fingerprints for all finishes</b>	Soap and warm water or organic solvent (e.g. acetone, alcohol, methylated spirits)	Rinse with clean water and wipe dry. Follow polish lines for satin finishes.
<b>Stubborn stainless and discolouration for all finishes</b>	Mild cleaning solutions (e.g. Jif, specialty stainless steel cleaners such as Marine 2 in 1)	Use rage, sponge or fibre brush (soft nylon or natural bristle. An old toothbrush can be useful). Rinse well with clean water and wipe dry. Follow polish lines for satin finishes
<b>Lime deposits from hard water</b>	Solution of one part vinegar to three parts water	Soak in solution then brush to loosen. Rinse well with clean water
<b>Oil or grease marks</b>	Organic solvents (e.g. acetone, alcohol methylated spirits, proprietary "safety solvents")	Clean after with soap and water, rinse with clean water and dry. Follow polish lines for satin finishes.
<b>Rust and other corrosion products</b> <b>Embedded or adhering "free iron"</b>	Rust stains can be removed by adding one part of nitric acid to nine parts of warm water. Leave for 30 to 60 minutes then wash off with plenty of water and flush any drains thoroughly.	Rinse well with clean water. Wear rubber gloves, mix the solution in a glass container and be very careful with the acid.
<b>Routine cleaning of boat fittings</b>	Frequent washing down with fresh water	Washing is recommended after each time the boat is used in salt water
<b>Scratches on polished satin finish</b>	For slight scratches use impregnated nylon pads. Polish scuffs dressed with iron-free abrasives for deeper scratches . Follow polish lines. Clean with soap or detergent as per routine cleaning.	Do not use ordinary steel wool - iron particles can become embedded in stainless steel and cause further surface problems. Stainless steel and 'Scotch-brite' scouring pads are suitable