

Cleaning Stainless Steel

In general the minimum care is needed to maintain stainless steel in its original condition, however, in certain conditions particularly where there is exposure to salt air, a routine cleaning programme will maximise performance and service life. The solutions to specific problems are shown in the table. A number of rules should be noted:

Do

- Use the mildest cleaning procedure that will do the job effectively.
- Follow the polishing lines when using abrasive cleaners.
- Rinse thoroughly after cleaning operation.
- Wipe dry to avoid water marks.

Dont

- Use steel scrapers or knives in removing heavy dirt deposits. This may cause rust spots, use wood, plastic or stainless steel tools.
- Allow chemical sterilisers, bleaching agents or any solution containing chlorides to remain in prolonged contact with stainless steel.

Problem	Cleaning Method	Notes
Routine cleaning	Soap, ammonia or detergent and warm water. Sponge with cloth and rinse with clear water.	For use on all finishes.
Fingerprints	Soap and warm water or organic solvent.	For use on all finishes.
Oil, grease marks	Alcohol. Genklene-trichlorethene Thinners No PF80174	Where swabbing is not practical use a 4-6% solution of sodium metasilicate
Rust, corrosion products	Oxalic Acid	Apply a swab and allow to stand for 15-20 minutes. Rinse after.

Colour Coating Maintenance

Organic colour coatings as applied by A.S. Hardware Ltd. should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis. The frequency of such cleaning will depend on a number of factors which include the following:

1. The geographical location of the building.
2. The environment surrounding the buildings, i.e. marine, industrial, alkaline/acidic, etc.
3. Levels of atmospheric pollution.
4. Prevailing wind.
5. Protection of the building by other buildings.
6. Possibility of airborne debris causing erosive wear of the coating.

The best method of cleaning is by regular washing of the coating using a solution of warm water and mild detergent (e.g. 5% Teepol Solution). All surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth or sponge, using nothing harsher than natural bristle brushes.

In industrial environments the normal frequency of cleaning should be at not more than three monthly intervals. Should there be a high atmospheric pollution the period between cleaning should be reduced.

Where the atmosphere is deemed 'rural' or 'normal' then the period of cleaning may be extended to six monthly periods.

Real Brass, Bronze & Copper Maintenance

Brass, bronze & copper finishes will require regular cleaning to prevent the patina layer from breaking down with the resultant discolouring of the finish. Use Brasso or a similar cleaner, do not use an abrasive.

All alloys are polished either satin or bright with metal being open to the elements, no lacquer is used as this will eventually break down and lead to a mottled appearance of the product.

Patina Brass & Copper Alloy Antique Finishes

Patina brass and copper alloy finishes as applied by AS Hardware Ltd will require cleaning and maintaining on a regular basis. They are finished with a bees wax polish which is not indestructible and will in time, break down.

It is recommended that they are wiped with a clean dry cloth to remove excess dust and dirt, they should then be finished with a thin layer of bees wax polish, this should form part of a monthly routine maintenance programme.

Patina finishes have been ARIFICIALLY AGED, creating a patina that would normally take months or years to achieve. Due to the nature of these finishes they will vary in appearance and will continue to change with handling and use.

The use of polishing agents will remove the antique finishes and should therefore never be used.

Timber Range Maintenance

All our timber products are treated with a high quality wax finish unless otherwise instructed. The finishes are not indestructible and will require regular maintenance in order to ensure the best quality appearance can be kept. In any event all timber will age at different rates particularly when exposed to weather; this may be apparent by discolouration and cracking.

Timber door furniture should be treated with a good quality waxing product at regular intervals.

Leather Type: Old English

Old English is an aniline finished leather, tanned to ensure a pleasing distressed or aged finish from new. Extra fat liquors are applied during tanning, to give the leather a slightly waxy feel.

These leathers are designed to allow the natural marking variations of the leather to show through to the finish coat. Pull-up leathers do not have a consistent colour density across the whole hide. They are designed to change colour and sheen when pulled or stretched. They are not as colour fast as pigmented hides and are designed to allow furniture to age and relax through use and over time.

Door furniture should be protected from direct sunlight and not placed next to sources of heat. Evidence of marks and scarring will be seen through the surface finish. Each hide will be unique, and so will the furniture on which it is used. Therefore swatch samples should be regarded as no more than a guide, for these types of leather.

Leather Care

A dampened cloth and a pure mild soap solution can be used for light marks. However, extra care should be taken, as this type of leather can easily be damaged by spillages and soiling. Do not wet the leather as water staining may occur. Do not use detergent products.

Leather conditioners are available for this type of leather which help maintain suppleness and help to prevent the leather from fading or drying out. These conditioners are designed to be used from new and throughout the life of the furniture. Read carefully the labels on proprietary cleaners to check that they are suitable for this kind of leather.