Practical Sheet

UGINOX by Aperam



Why do stainless steels need to be cleaned?

Thanks to a passive layer that spontaneously reforms when exposed to air, stainless steels offer an attractive appearance and excellent corrosion resistance. , However, dirt and stains on the stainless steel's surface can deteriorate its corrosion resistance and thus must be periodically removed. Cleaning is therefore necessary to preserve stainless steel's bright appearance and to ensure its ongoing resistance to corrosion in any working environment.

When should stainless steels be cleaned?

Cleaning frequency depends on the conditions of use. In some cases, cleaning might occur naturally (e.g. building materials exposed to rain). However, when cleaning does not happen naturally, dirt and stains must be removed as soon as they become visible.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Our advice for ensuring stainless steel durability

Cleaning techniques*

To assure the longevity of the building, we recommend following standard cleaning instructions. In practice, there are four types of cleaning processes:

1

Before reception on site

Stainless steel generally arrives at a site protected by adhesive plastic (the exception being the tinned range). After removing the protective film (always within 6 months from the application's coating), a simple cleaning using soapy water is sufficient.
In the case of dirt (plaster, cement, glue, etc.) the cleaning must be done with appropriate cleaning products.

2

Renovation

In the case of graffiti, tags or neglected maintenance, a simple cleaning using soapy water and products might not be enough to give the surfaces their original look. Instead, specific cleaning products should be used. A final rinse is always necessary.

3

Indoor exposure

Stainless steels used indoors are soiled by, for example, fingerprints and stains that can be readily removed by wiping the surface with a window detergent on a rag. For more difficult stains , a specific product specially designed for stainless steels must be used (i.e., passivating acid grease remover), followed by a thorough rinsing with water.
Drying is best done using a rubber squeegee such as those used for windows.

4

Regular maintenance

> Detergents:

Most domestic detergents and soaps can be used. Standard window detergents are particularly well-suited to periodic cleaning requirements. Regardless of what product is used, it must be completely removed after cleaning by rinsing with clean water.

> Disinfectants:

Hot Javel water, even when diluted, is strictly prohibited. Instead, diluted cold Javel water should be used, with precaution and always with a limited contact time and abundant rinsing with clean water.

- limit contact time
- always follow with a thorough rinsing with water

> The use of hydrochloric acid is strictly prohibited

Drying is best done using a rubber squeegee such as those used for windows.
This avoids streaking. A good practice is to clean glass and stainless steel surfaces at the same time.

* Cleaning techniques do not apply to Aperam's range of Uginox Patina tinned coating products.

It is recommended to:

- Use sponges or soft nylon based brushes (except on bright or mirror polished finishes).
- Brush in the polishing direction and always in the same direction.
- Copiously rinse with water.
- Wipe using a rubber squeegee or a clean soft cloth.
- Use high pressure washers with or without detergents and/or hot water.
- As a general rule, always use clean tools and instruments.
- Protect all areas from ladder marks.

You should avoid:

Using:

- Metallic pads
- Wire brushes and metal wools
- Scrubbing brush
- Nylon brushes for buffing or polishing or on mirror finished products
- Abrasive pads or powders (regardless of how fine)

Applying:

- Chlorinated products, waxes and bleach
- In general, any product whose composition is not known or has been modified, such as nitric and hydrofluoric acids

Please note

The use of acids or solvents requires special care by the user and as to the surrounding materials. These operations should always be followed by a thorough rinsing with water.

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