

PRODUCT SURFACE CLEANING GUIDE

Chrome and Gold Plated

These surfaces should always be cleaned with plain soapy water, followed by a clean water rinse and wiped only with a clean 100% cotton dry towel.

Never use abrasive cleaners on soft surfaces, as scratching will result. Also, never use paper towels, paper-based wipes, cellulose or plastic sponges or fake chamois cloths, as these are also highly abrasive.

Anodised

Regularly wash down anodised aluminium with warm water containing a suitable wetting agent or with a mild soap solution. Hand rubbing is often used for small work, however, for larger projects utensils such as fibre brushes may be more practical. More difficult grime deposits may require the use of a mild abrasive, such as pumice powder and water. Where greasy deposits are concerned, cleaning may require a soft cloth dipped in white spirits. It is necessary to thoroughly rinse with water after cleaning, especially where crevices are present, to ensure removal of all residues.

Do not use emery paper, sand paper, steel wool or any other highly abrasive materials to remove grime. Acid or alkaline cleaners are not recommended as they can damage the anodised coating. Emulsion cleaners or proprietary chemical agents may also attack the anodised coating. Therefore, they should never be used except in consultation with companies specialising in the cleaning of anodised aluminium.

The frequency with which cleaning should be carried out will range from monthly to six monthly according to application and the environment that the surface is exposed to.

Polished Brass

Never use abrasives like sand paper, steel, wool or wire wheels. Scratches in brass require a great deal of abrasive work to remove and blend. Caustic substances like salts and acids will etch the surface of brass resulting in pit marks that can't be polished away by hand. Once etched, the only way to repair the surface is to level the pitted area. This typically requires powerful machinery and involves the removal of a fair amount of brass. Warm water with a mild detergent and a tooth brush are good for removing encrusted polish that has been left for a long period of time. When employing a tool to remove foreign debris such as wax, the best material to use is wood or plastic. Never use an object harder than the brass itself to remove old lacquer, paint, wax, etc; and never use a tool on lacquered surfaces.

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Stainless Steel

All grades of stainless steel can stain and discolour as a result of long term surface deposits and can never be accepted as completely maintenance free. In order to achieve maximum corrosion resistance, the surface of the stainless steel must be kept clean. Surface contamination and the formation of deposits must be prevented. These deposits may be minute particles of iron or rust from other sources used on the building of the new premises and not removed until after the stainless steel items have been fixed. Industrial and even naturally occurring atmospheric conditions can produce deposits which can be equally as corrosive, e.g. salt deposits from marine conditions. Strong acid solutions are sometimes used to clean masonry and tiling of buildings but these should never be permitted to come in contact with metals, including stainless steel.

1. Wash down the surface regularly using water containing soap or mild detergents.
2. Always rinse the surface with fresh water after cleaning.
3. Polishing the surface with a soft dry cloth can complete a thorough cleaning operation.
4. When wiping or polishing stainless steel, always follow the direction of the 'brush' finish.

Powder Coated

It is important that maintenance is done on a regular basis. Dirt, grime and airborne salt deposits from the atmosphere are often capable of causing damage to the coating surface and must be regularly removed. It is recommended that cleaning be done routinely at a three monthly interval, six months should be considered the maximum interval. Particular attention should be paid to the cleaning interval in marine or other corrosive environments and areas prone to atmospheric fallout. In the cleaning process, the following should be noted:

- a) Cleaning should be done with a diluted solution of a mild detergent in warm water. Avoid excessively hot solutions.
- b) Use a soft bristle brush or similar to clean the surface. Don't use abrasive tools on the coating.
- c) After cleaning, rinse the film thoroughly with fresh water.
- d) Do not use strong solvent type cleaners on the coating. Where it is necessary to remove materials from the surface such as adhesives and a solvent is necessary, the weakest possible solvent should be used. The only solvents recommended are methylated spirits, white spirits or Isopropanol.

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Powder Coated cont...

Ensure that the contact time for the solvent is minimal, and that the solvent is thoroughly rinsed from the surface. A small test area should be checked prior to solvent cleaning to ensure that no damage to the film or the colour will occur.

e) Where more aggressive cleaning is required, a mild abrasive such as a high quality automotive cream polish, used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, may be necessary. The use of a strong abrasive (cutting) compound is not recommended.

f) The use of bore water for cleaning is not recommended due to its mineral content, as it can bring about staining of the coating and may instigate long term coating failure.