

MAINTENANCE OF STAINLESS STEEL

Stainless steel is a corrosion- proof material. However, partial corrosion might appear. In most cases it is pitting corrosion (connected with localized damage to protective layer) or crevice corrosion (resulted in diverse oxygenation). Pitting corrosion most often is a result of aggressive environment i.e. the use of strong cleaning agents or scrubbing steel surfaces with inadequate tool. Other corrosion causative agents are for example the presence of chlorine in swimming pool surrounding, the sand carried by strong blast in dune environment, acid rains containing plenty of pollution (e.g. iron derivative).

Lack of adequate maintenance or non- compliance with recommendations on detergents may cause permanent damage of oxidic layer that leads to formation of decolouration and corrosion. On some detergent etiquettes suppliers state that the product shouldn't be used on steel, chromed and nickel plated surfaces because it might cause damage.

What should be used for cleaning of stainless steel?

- Domestic detergents adequate for steel
- Water with liquid soap
- Glass cleaners- most of them is adequate for steel
- Special detergents for cleaning and polishing steel

The materials adequate for cleaning:

- Cloth from microfiber, chemical or natural fibres
- Non- woven fabric from plastic
- Spongy cloth or sponges
- High pressure washers and steam washers

What cannot be used for stainless steel cleaning?

Strong detergents that contain chlorine or bleach must not be used. Likewise, water from swimming pools is forbidden (chlorine). These elements may cause damage to chromium oxide layer thanks to which stainless steel is corrosion- proof.

To avoid damaging the surface it must be cleaned in accordance with brushing direction. After cleaning steel surface it must be always wiped dry.

If you want your stainless steel elements to look good for a long time you should:

- Buy special detergents for stainless steel. They create an additional thin protective layer that holds from few days to even few weeks depending on usage intensity
- After cleaning always wipe dry the surface
- Even the smallest amount of chlorine in detergents might cause permanent damage to chromium oxide layer, that is responsible for corrosion – proof features, and lead to corrosion
- Welding inside stainless steel elements is not rust resistant and situations when water may get inside the steel elements must be avoided (don't leave furniture for long in places where water stays on the surface in a form of deeper puddles)