

## Suggested Maintenance for Stainless Steel Products

Maintenance for Stainless is in two forms. Regular maintenance and Maintenance in a harsh environment.

### Regular Maintenance:

Stainless Steel can be cleaned using a variety of available products, however these products should not contain harsh abrasives and any amount of Chlorides. An occasional washing with a solution of water and 5% mild detergent followed by a water rinse and drying using a clean soft rag is normally sufficient.

### Maintenance in a Harsh Environment:

In some environments Type 304 and some 316 stainless steels may have the appearance of rusting. A harsh environment can be defined as The Ocean, swimming pools and water treatment plants. We have also experienced, damage to kickplates as a result of floor cleaning, from Terrazzo grinding, and/or chemicals that are used to clean flooring. Some buildings that are near ocean front locations have experienced this condition due to little or no use to the door pull. If the building has vacant commercial spaces, and the doors are not in regular usage, this may occur. Human hands have oils that are deposited on the push/pull surfaces.

Stainless steel owes its corrosion resistance to a thin transparent chromium oxide film that forms on the surface. It will rapidly re-form as the part wears as long as oxygen is present. If the surface becomes contaminated with grease or any other substance it may prevent the oxide film from reforming. When this film is penetrated the surface may take on the appearance of a "rouge" or of a reddish brown appearance. It may even look like rust. This is only a surface condition and it is not rust. **Do not be alarmed this condition is completely curable.** To properly clean the part, follow instructions to the letter, no substitutions. **Only use the required materials below.**

- ❖ Materials Required: Clean rags, WD-40, Scotchbrite pads (green only, not the blue) these items are readily available at many retail outlets.
- ❖ Squirt an ample spray of WD-40 onto the SB pad.
- ❖ Clean using the pad, and scratching the direction of the grain finish on the stainless.
- ❖ Wipe with a clean rag. Do this until all discoloration is removed.
- ❖ Finish with a light film of WD-40 and wipe with a clean rag, removing as much of the WD-40 as possible.
- ❖ After we have performed this operation, we have not received a call back to the same building regarding cleaning again.

**Warning: Do not use any metal pads, such as S.O.S or Brillo to clean Stainless Steel. Do not use any products that contain Chlorides.**

This document is to supersede any and all prior documents that are unsigned and undated regarding this subject.