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## Care and Maintenance of Stainless Steel

### Cleaning Methods

1. Generally speaking, stainless steel is easy to clean and maintain. Washing with soap or a mild detergent and warm water, then rinsing with clean water, is usually sufficient for most cleaning requirements.
2. Use a clean, soft sponge, cloth or fiber brush. Rinse thoroughly with clean water, then dry.
3. Always clean stainless steel doors and frames *with* the grain to avoid scratching the finish or damaging the appearance.
4. If stainless steel has become very dirty or is showing signs of surface discoloration (for example, if it has been exposed to adverse conditions or has not been well maintained), alternative cleaning methods may be used.
  - 4.1. Fingerprints and light stains: Use soap, mild detergent or dilute a 1% ammonia solution in warm water, or use a commercially available spray designed specifically for cleaning stainless steel.
  - 4.2. Oil and grease: Use hydrocarbon solvents (methylated spirit, isopropyl alcohol or acetone).
  - 4.3. Stubborn stains, watermarks and light 'rust' stains: Use a mild, non-abrasive cream or polish. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions, and apply with the grain. Rinse away any residue with clean water, then dry.
  - 4.4. Mortar, grout, concrete splashes:
    - 4.4.1. Use a 10-15% volume solution of phosphoric acid. Use a warm neutralized solution with diluted ammonia, then rinse with clean water and dry.
    - 4.4.2. As an alternative, soak in a 25% vinegar solution and scrub away deposits with a nylon brush.
    - 4.4.3. Do not use hydrochloric acid-based mortar removers with stainless steel. Solutions containing chloride can cause undesirable surface staining and pitting.
5. Paint and graffiti: Use alkaline or solvent paint strippers according to the type of paint. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Use a soft, nylon bristle brush on patterned or textured surfaces. Rinse with clean water, then dry.

While the products and chemical solutions referenced in this document are suitable for use with stainless steel, they are not intended as endorsements. Any cleaning agents used should be approved according to applicable environmental regulations, and should always be used in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions.

If the cleaning methods listed above do not produce the desired results, keep in mind that stainless steel finishes can be mechanically re-worked in the field. Please contact DLF for more information.