Stainless Steel Cleaning Instructions

Stainless Steel Washroom Accessories

Stainless steel is a low-carbon steel that contains at least 10 percent chromium. The addition of chromium gives the steel its unique corrosion-resisting properties. Bradley partitions are fabricated from type 301 stainless steel, which contains 16-18% chromium and 6-8% nickel. Bradley uses it because it is extremely durable, resists corrosion, stands up to many chemicals, and is easy to fabricate.

Stainless steel is very resistant to rust, however this does not mean that it is impervious to it. Stainless steel must be kept clean and free from contaminants. Frequent cleaning with mild soap and water or glass cleaner and a cotton cloth is required. Sometimes stainless steel products will develop corrosion or discoloration due to environmental and installation conditions. The following is a list of common conditions that cause corrosion or discoloration of stainless steel and should be avoided.

- Chloride containing cleansers – includes pure bleach and any cleaners containing bleach
- Muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid) – commonly used to clean up after tile/concrete installation
- Concentrated soap residue – chemical additives will cause discoloration and some dried soaps will actually look like rust
- Water with high iron content – can leave a rusty residue, especially if allowed to drip continuously
- Contact with iron materials – includes steel wool, machining chips, and iron residue/dust from installation or cleaning of other steel products
- Trapped moisture between the product and another object – rubber mats, metal cans of soaps or cleaners
- Salts – contain chlorides

Any discoloration or corrosion should be removed as soon as possible or permanent discoloration and pitting of the surface could occur. Usually the product can be restored to its original condition. Most discoloration can be removed with a mild cleanser (Ajax, Bon Ami, etc.) or stainless steel cleaner (Revere Ware Stainless Steel Cleaner, Goddard's Stainless Steel Cleaner, etc.) and a Scotch-Brite® pad. The surface should then be thoroughly rinsed with clear water. With proper maintenance, stainless steel will maintain its luster and appearance indefinitely.

My stainless is rusty? What do I do?

The following is a guide to help you choose a cleaning method that best fits the finish and the product in question.

Cleaning Method	Applicable Finishes	Notes
Naval Jelly – available at hardware, marine, and automotive supply stores	Bright polished and satin finishes (mirrors, partitions and dispensers)	Follow directions on side of bottle. Must be rinsed well with water. Tends to brighten surface so should be used on entire product. This is an acid-based product and safety precautions on product must be followed. Does not work as well on rougher finishes.
Mild Abrasives (Bon Ami, BarKeepers Friend) – available at hardware, discount, and grocery stores	Satin finishes (partitions and dispensers)	Do not use any product containing bleach or other chlorides. Put mild abrasive on soft, wet cloth. Rub evenly over entire surface of item. Rinse well and wipe dry.
Abrasive Pads (Scotch-Brite or other non-metallic pad) – available at hardware discount, and grocery stores	Rougher finishes (peened grab bars)	Use a mild abrasive cleanser (described above) on a damp abrasive pad. Rub in the direction of the grain. Clean entire part to ensure continuity of the finish. Rinse well with water and wipe dry. Do not use this on fine finishes as it will destroy the intended finish.

Electrocoat Finish Cleaning Information

Polyurethane electrocoat lacquer on stainless steel accessories provides excellent resistance to tarnishing and staining from airborne contaminants. The baked-on lacquer increases mechanical properties and provides an outstanding combination of UV, solvent, chemical, and wear resistance at thin film builds. Our tinted polyurethane finishes are designed to offer cosmetic and durability enhancement. Stains and fingerprints on the baked-on polyurethane lacquer coating can be easily cleaned with a dry cotton cloth. Soap and water may be added for cleaning and disinfecting. Whenever practical, wipe with the grain of the metal. If cleaners are used, thoroughly rinse with clear water. Depending on rinse water quality, a drying may be needed to avoid water spots. Avoid scouring pads and abrasive cleansers.

P.O. Box 309, Menomonee Falls, WI 53052-0309
800 BRADLEY (800 272 3539) +1 262 251 6000
bradleycorp.com