

Exterior Stainless Steel Hardware Care and Maintenance



Care & Handling

Stainless Steel Architectural Hardware for exterior joinery will require maintenance to ensure the finish of the fresh hardware and to prevent discolouration or “tea staining” from occurring

To maintain stainless steel hardware finish:

Wash regularly with clean fresh water, mild detergent and a cloth or soft brush. After washing rinse in clean water and wipe the surface dry with a soft absorbent cloth remembering to go with the grain on brushed stainless steel. Generally, you should wash your stainless steel every time you wash your windows or **every 3-5 months**.

Do not use abrasive cleaners or a scouring pad of any type as they may cause excessive wear and dull the finish.

If “tea staining” has occurred then:

Get a specialist cleaning product such as the 3M Stainless Steel cleaner and a non-scratch cleaning sponge, both readily available from your supermarket.

Apply clean water with the cleaning sponge and rub gently. If the mark won't shift, it may be necessary to use a stainless-steel cleaner, in which case apply the cleaner and rub gently. An old toothbrush can be used to get into any nooks and crannies. After cleaning it is important to rinse the stainless steel with clean fresh water and buff with a soft cloth.

Remember to always rub with the grain, **NEVER** across as you will spoil the finish and the stainless can lose its shine.

Also **NEVER** use steel wool to clean stainless steel. It is usually made of carbon steel and the fragments left behind as well as scratching the surface will rust onto the stainless-steel surface.