



## General Maintenance Instructions for Metal Finishes

1. Periodically check the fasteners and tighten if necessary. The fasteners should not loosen regularly; if they do, there is an installation problem that should be resolved.
2. Clean the product routinely by following the cleaning instructions below.

### Finish Cleaning Instructions

**CAUTION:** Always try the recommended procedure in a small inconspicuous spot prior to treating the entire article to verify it works on your particular application and you are satisfied with the results.

**NOTE:** Frequent cleaning extends the life of all finishes.

<b>US3</b>	Polished & lacquered brass	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water. Never use brass polish or an abrasive cleaner unless you intend to remove all lacquer and totally refinish the product.
<b>US3NL</b>	Polished unlacquered brass	Use a soft cloth and a good metal cleaner. We recommend Mr. Metal by Northern Labs.
<b>US4</b>	Satin finish & lacquered brass	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water. Never use brass polish or an abrasive cleaner unless you intend to remove all lacquer and totally refinish the product.
<b>US9</b>	Polished & lacquered bronze	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water. Never use brass polish or an abrasive cleaner unless you intend to remove all lacquer and totally refinish the product.
<b>US10</b>	Satin finished & lacquered bronze	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water. Never use brass polish or an abrasive cleaner unless you intend to remove all lacquer and totally refinish the product.
<b>US10B</b>	Oxidized & oiled bronze	Use a soft cloth and a paste furniture wax. Buff lightly so as not to remove the dark oxide coating where it remains.
<b>US26</b>	Polished chrome plated	Use a soft cloth and a good metal cleaner. We recommend Mr. Metal by Northern Labs.
<b>US26D</b>	Satin chrome plated	Use a soft cloth and a good metal cleaner. We recommend Mr. Metal by Northern Labs.
<b>US28</b>	Anodized aluminum	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water.
<b>313/315</b>	Dark bronze or black anodized aluminum	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water.
<b>US32</b>	Polished stainless steel	Use a soft cloth and a good metal cleaner. We recommend Mr. Metal by Northern Labs.
<b>US32D</b>	Satin stainless steel	Use a soft cloth and a good metal cleaner. We recommend Mr. Metal by Northern Labs. For more information about stainless steel see page 2.
<b>US32DMS</b>	Satin stainless steel with antimicrobial coating	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water. Never use brass polish or an abrasive cleaner unless you intend to remove all lacquer and totally refinish the product.
<b>US3LIFETIME</b>	Brass	Use a soft cloth and mild soap and water. Use a soft cloth and a good metal cleaner.

**WARRANTY:** All products are warranted to be free of defects in material and workmanship for the period of one (1) year from date of shipment. We reserve the right to replace or repair any product found defective within this period. No other warranty expressed or implied is valid.



## CARE OF STAINLESS STEEL PRODUCTS

Stainless steel's resistance to corrosion and low maintenance make it an ideal material for many applications. Contrary to popular belief, stainless steel is neither stainless or is it free from rust, it is considered a corrosion-resistant steel. On occasion, users are surprised to find rust deposits and corrosion in what was assumed to be a rust-free material. Here are some frequently asked questions we have been asked.

### **Can stainless steel rust?**

Stainless steel does not rust as long as the protective layer of chromium oxide is able to form on the surface. Any contamination of the surface by dirt, chemical substance, or other form of harsh abuse can hinder the formation of this protective layer and allow a breakdown of this corrosion protection and form a rusty-looking appearance.

### **What are the most common causes of stainless steel rusting or corroding?**

Improper cleaning of stainless steel is the most common cause. This could include items such as not removing all the dirt from the surface, not thoroughly rinsing after cleaning or not thoroughly drying after cleaning. The result of improper cleaning is that it allows iron, which is found in most water, to react with the oxygen in the air and form this rust-looking film. Following proper cleaning methods is the best way to avoid this from occurring.

Another cause of rust or corrosion could be caused by scouring the surface of your stainless steel with steel wool or wire brush in an attempt to clean them. This process embeds particles from the process into the surface of the stainless steel and when exposed to atmospheric elements such as moisture and/or humidity forms rust.

Other causes of contamination can be but not limited to chlorides which include a wide range of products from chlorine & chlorine detergents to salt. There have also been cases examined in which exterior concrete being cleaned with acids, windows being cleaned with ammonium cleaners, concrete dust from pouring floors or sidewalks as well as dirt, dust and grime accumulations from site use, combined with natural atmospheric elements have contaminated the surface causing this rusting appearance.

### **Is there any way to avoid this?**

Preventative care is the best method of insuring a long term aesthetic appearance. Clean the product periodically using a soft cloth and a good metal cleaner. We recommend Mr. Metal by Northern Labs.

Here are several other items to consider if using stainless steel for future applications. You may want to explore using a polished (smooth) finish US32 which would be less susceptible to the accumulation of contaminants than a satin finish, US32D which has a finish grain and makes it more susceptible for a buildup.

Also, for the harshest environments where products are exposed to strong chlorides such as a pool side, ocean front, street side exposed to salt used to melt snow or ice, you may need to consider using a higher grade of stainless steel such as a 316 alloy. Many of our most popular products are available in a 316 alloy which we refer to as US323SS (polished) or US32DSS (satin).

For short term protection during a construction phase, you may want to consider leaving the product in its original plastic film or something similar to assist in the prevention of contaminants on the surface.

Regardless of the route you choose, routine maintenance and proper cleaning is the only way to ensure long term aesthetic appearance.