



landscape • entertainment • architectural • hospitality • illumination

## Stainless Steel Product Care and Cleaning

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. Focus Industries uses 316 Stainless Steel in most of its stainless steel products because it is extremely durable, resists corrosion, stands up to many chemicals and harsh outdoor elements. Stainless steels are very resistant to rust, however this **does not** mean that they are impervious to it. Stainless steel must be kept clean and free from contaminants. Seasonal 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 – this includes bleach and any bleach containing cleaners
- 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 actually look like rust
- Water with high iron content – can leave a rusty residue
- Contact with iron materials – including steel wool, machining chips, and iron residue/dust from installation or cleaning of other steel products
- 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 Scotchbrite pad. Steel Wool is not recommended as the steel wool has tendency to flake off and get embedded into stainless steel surfaces. Though the actual stainless steel itself won't rust, those little flakes will – giving the appearance of rusting metal.

With proper maintenance, stainless steel will maintain its luster and appearance indefinitely.