

Net2 Entry – Steel panel maintenance

Overview

Stainless steels are selected for applications where their inherent corrosion resistance, strength and aesthetic appeal are required. However, dependent on the service conditions, stainless steels will stain and discolour due to surface deposits and so cannot be assumed to be completely maintenance-free.

In this respect, stainless steel is no different than other building materials such as glass, plastic or coloured steel, which also require maintenance during its service life.

Environment

Stainless steel can be exposed to more aggressive environments:

- Maritime atmospheres
- Industrial atmospheres
- Spatter from road salts
- Air pollution and car fumes

All of these environments can cause brown spots to appear. A good rule of thumb is to clean the stainless steel surfaces just as often as the building's windows.

Depending on the degree of contamination from the surroundings, an interval of six to twelve months is recommended for light contamination and three to six months for more severe conditions, such as those mentioned in the above.

What do I clean it with?

A clean damp rag or a chamois cloth is usually sufficient for wiping away light dirt and finger-marks. Dedicated stainless steel cleaners are also readily available from most building trade suppliers.

Do not use mesh balls of metal wire (not stainless steel), steel wool or metal brushes to clean stainless steel. Not only will they scratch the stainless steel surface, but they will also leave behind carbon steel particles that will form rust spots when the surface gets wet.

Always clean the steel in the direction of the grain – not against the grain. When water has been used for cleaning or rinsing, wipe the surface dry to prevent water from drying and forming watermarks, especially in areas with hard water. Avoid this type of watermark by using distilled water.

The following cleaning agents should **NOT** be used to clean stainless steel:

- Cleaners containing chloride
- Bleaches containing hypochlorite
- Silver polish

