



## OUTDOOR STAINLESS STEEL SHOWER CARE

### Benefits of Using 316 Stainless Steel

With its elevated levels of nickel and chromium, 316 stainless steel can withstand conditions that other steels cannot. 316 stainless steel has superior corrosion resistance compared to 304 and similar alloys. Seawater and salt-laden air pose significant threats to stainless steel, often causing corrosion even in high-grade alloys. Salt, in particular, can erode the toughest metals over time.

316 stainless steel is the optimal choice because of its enhanced resistance to chloride and salt pitting renders it superior for applications in close proximity to water.

### 316 Stainless Steel Maintenance

The presence of chromium in 316 steel forms a protective film on its surface, shielding the metal from adverse conditions. However, this protective film is susceptible to damage from scratching or external factors. Surface rust can occur as one of the initial indicators of this deterioration process.

Surface rust poses minimal concern as it can be easily removed. Thus, the primary step in maintaining 316 steel is to ensure the steel surface remains free of any surface rust.

Another consideration to be mindful of is "tea staining," which may occur gradually due to the chromium content in your 316-grade steel. While often mistaken for corrosion, it is merely a surface-level discoloration.

The solution for tea staining is the application of a metal protector or lubricant.

Stainless steel cleaning kits and solutions can be purchased online or at your local hardware store.

### Basic Do's and Don'ts

#### Do:

Regularly rinse with fresh water to remove accumulated chemicals like chlorine, then dry with a clean cloth.

Use a cleaner safe for glass to clean stainless steel regularly. If you notice discoloration, tarnish, or water stains, increase the frequency of fresh water rinses to minimize chemical buildup.

Address rust spots promptly to prevent irreversible pitting. Periodically, clean with borax, soda ash, or a non-abrasive commercial cleanser and water. For stubborn stains, use a paste made of magnesium oxide, ammonia, and water.

Consider the following periodic cleaning regimen:

Dampen a cleaning pad with fresh water (avoid using pool water). Gently rub stained areas in the direction of the existing polishing grain until stains are lifted. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. Employ a cleaner de-greaser to eliminate any lingering stains. Afterward, ensure the stainless steel is completely dry, then apply wax. Allow the wax to dry to a haze before buffing to a brilliant shine with a clean, dry cloth. Automotive waxes offer enhanced beauty and protection for your stainless steel product.



**Do not:**

Refrain from using steel wool or sandpaper, as well as mineral acids, bleaches, or chlorine cleansers. Do not introduce chlorine directly next to your stainless steel equipment in the pool. Add it as far away as feasible.

**ADVANCED STAINLESS STEEL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**

**Discoloration, Tarnish or Water Stains:**

The initial stage of corrosion is solely surface-level and can be readily eliminated using most commercial metal polishes. Indoor swimming pool facilities typically exhibit more pronounced discoloration, attributed to the chlorine vapor confined within an indoor setting.

**Light Rusting:**

At this point, rust is apparent, but minimal to no pitting has developed. Utilizing a more potent cleaning agent, such as Simichrome Polish, becomes necessary.

**Heavy Rusting:**

If corrosion is neglected over an extended period, it can result in a thick layer of rust accompanied by surface pitting. In cases of advanced corrosion, naval jelly is advised for treatment.

**Corrosion Prevention:**

Create a protective barrier between the stainless steel and corrosive elements by applying a soft paste wax, such as automotive wax monthly. Wiping down the surface monthly using a towel with a penetrating oil like WD-40 will also protect the finish.

**Suggested Items for Care:**

- 1 Can of Powered Cleanser
- 1 Scouring Pad Sponge
- 1 Spray Bottle Cleaner
- 1 Paste Automotive Wax
- 1 Bottle of Penetrating Oil



Scouring pad sponge suggested for cleaning stainless steel



Example of stainless steel rust progression