

# Advisory Bulletin



BUILDING VALUE SINCE 1906

## TB-21 Stainless Steel Cleaning and Maintenance

- Always:** Wipe or polish with the grain direction of satin finishes.  
Remove any cleaning or soap residue from stainless surface with water and wipe dry with clean cloth.
- Caution:** Avoid cleaning products containing bleach, hydrochloric acids and or chlorides . . . these are frequently found in toilet bowl or tile cleaners and in abrasive scrubbing powders.  
Avoid use of steel wool which can leave behind fine particles that cause surface rust.  
Avoid use of abrasive cleaners on bright polish stainless steel surfaces.

CONDITION	CLEANING AGENT	METHOD OF APPLICATION
Dirt, smudges, and fingerprints	Use mild cleaning solution or stainless steel cleaners.	Apply cleaner. Wipe off soil using a cloth or sponge for smooth surfaces and a soft brush for textured surfaces. Rinse and dry.
Graffiti	Bobrick Graffiti Remover, part #891099 or equivalent.	Apply cleaner, rub spots with soft cloth or sponge. Rinse and dry.
Stubborn spots, atmospheric discoloration	Liquid or spray stainless steel polish.	As recommended by manufacturer. Rinse or dry.
Mineral deposit or scale from hard water	Bathroom cleaners containing phosphoric acid or acetic acids.	Apply liberally, allow to stand for a few minutes; scrub with coarse toweling or soft bristle brush in direction of grain. Rinse and dry.
“Rust” discoloration resulting from exposure to harsh environmental and or chemical conditions  Note: Shower and other wet environments may need to be cleaned daily to minimize “rust” discoloration.	Appropriate cleaner listed above, plus 3M Scotch Brite pad #7447 or equivalent.	Clean surface as above, then rub stained area lightly with 3M Scotch Brite pad. Clean with stainless steel polish. Rinse and dry. Rub only with the grain direction of satin finishes. . . do not use on bright polish stainless steel.

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## Special Note for Toilet Partition Hardware

Although stainless steel is very resistant to rust, there are certain conditions where this can happen depending on various factors listed below:

- Cleansers containing Chloride or Muriatic Acid (hydrochloric acid).
- Concentrated soap residue where chemical additives to soap may cause discoloration and potentially dry out and result in a rusting appearance.
- Environments where water has high iron content or where contact with iron occurs (such as steel wool, machining chips or iron residue or dust from installation or cleaning of other steel products) can leave a rusty residue.
- Presence of salt containing chlorides.

Remove rust discoloration or corrosion as soon as possible to prevent permanent discoloration and pitting of the surface. Regular cleaning can restore the original condition in most cases with proper maintenance and cleaning. DAILY cleaning should prevent discoloration (rusting and rusting appearance) and corrosion in high moisture environments such as showers and shower compartments.

### Materials and Tools Required:

- Mid abrasive cleaner such as Bar Keepers Friend (available at Home Improvement or Discount Stores).
- Soft Sponge and/or 3M Scotch Brite pad #7447 or equivalent.

### Follow the Steps Below During Daily Cleaning:

1. Apply a generous amount on the affected areas and rub with a damp sponge in the direction of the grain. NOTE: Avoid using caustic cleaners that contain chlorides as the abrasive nature of these products will further damage the steel's chromium film.
2. Rinse with clear water and gently towel dry.
3. Repeat cleaning process daily or more often depending on severity of rusting.