

# STAINLESS STEEL MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Allproof supplies a range of stainless steel products. These products require regular maintenance to keep their aesthetic appearance.

Allproof would like to clarify that stainless steel is considered *low maintenance and not no maintenance*. Some discolouration and tea-staining may occur if not maintained properly. Any tea-staining to these products is purely aesthetic and does not effect the performance or lifetime of the product in any way.

A regular cleaning programme should be established to maintain the appearance and condition of Allproof stainless steel products. A cleaning schedule should take into account that stainless steel will react differently in varying environments (i.e. marine). As a rough guide Allproof recommend cleaning stainless steel on the exterior of a building whenever windows are cleaned and on the interior when other fixtures (i.e. taps) are cleaned.

Do	Do Not
Regularly remove dirt build up, non-washable deposits and oil/greasy deposits.	Scrape a stainless steel surface to clean it.
Use proprietary stainless steel cleaners, detergents, or citric-base cleaners.	Use steel wool, wire brushes or pads.
Use a soft rag/cloth.	Use any cleaning product previously used on carbon steel.
Ensure stainless has been thoroughly rinsed after cleaning with plenty of water, high pressure water can be used, and wiped dry.	Use mortar or cement cleaning acids.
Use careful cleaning with polymer pads, if absolutely necessary.	

Allproof also recommend temporarily removing stainless steel grates in any scenario where another adjoining surface requires aggressive and/or acidic cleaning. Once cleaning is complete thoroughly rinse any surfaces that have contact with Allproof stainless steel before returning the grates to their positions.

**Tea-staining** is discolouration to the surface of stainless steel by corrosion. It is a cosmetic issue that does not affect the structural integrity or the lifetime of the material. Tea staining occurs when local conditions (such as temperature, relative humidity and presence of corrosive substances such as salt) are too aggressive for that stainless steel grade in its installed condition.