

## Maintenance of Stainless Steel Products

Stainless steel must be kept clean and free from contaminants. Frequent 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, especially if allowed to drip continuously
- Contact with iron materials – including steel wool, machining chips, and iron residue/dust from installation or cleaning of other steel products
- Trapped moisture between the product and another object – rubber mats, metal cans of soaps or cleaners
- 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. The surface should then be thoroughly rinsed with clear water. With proper maintenance, stainless steel will maintain its luster and appearance for many years.

