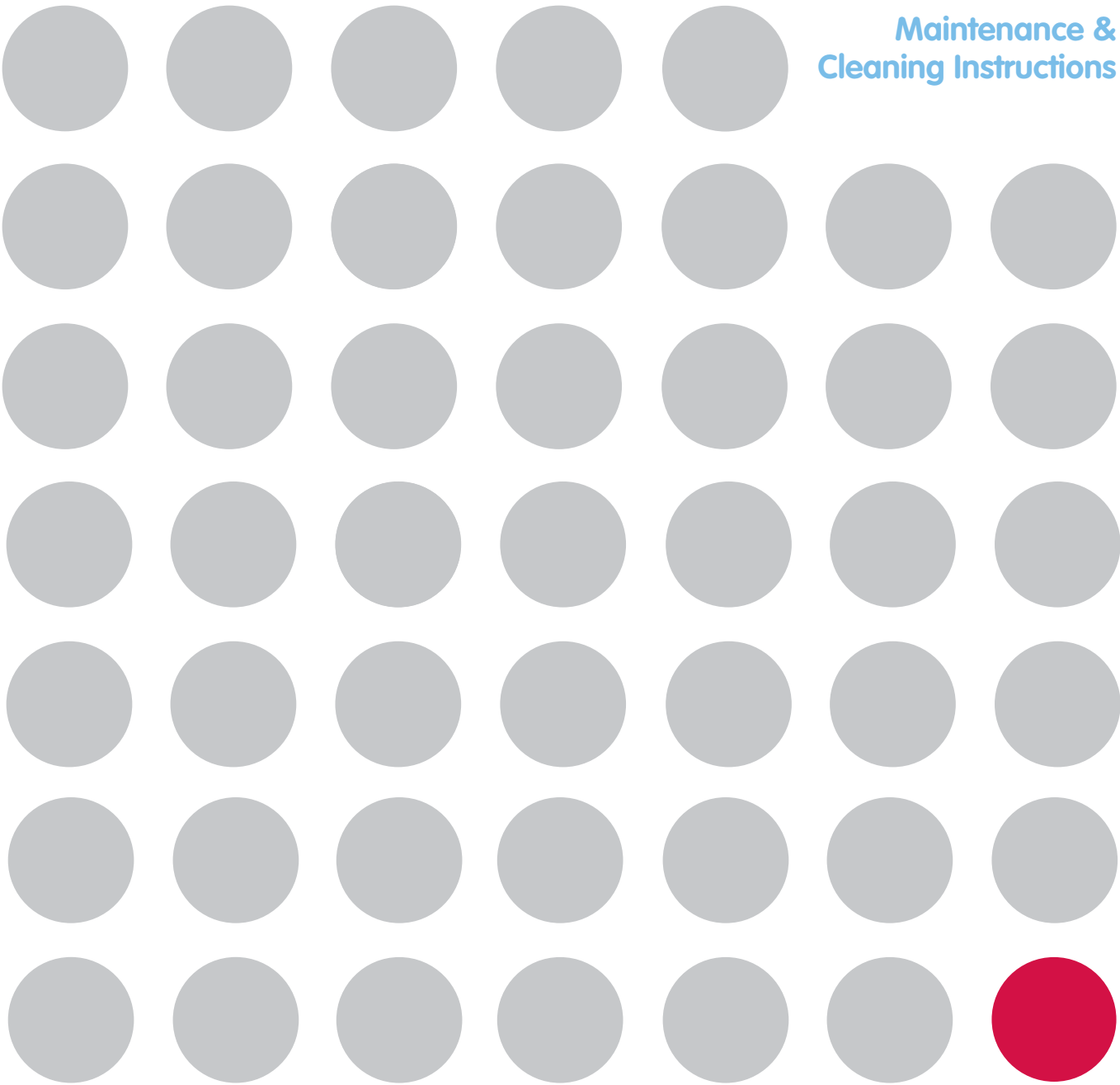
Amwell

Washrooms from concept to completion

Maintenance & Cleaning Instructions



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Contents

Schedule of recommended cleaning & maintenance

Product type	Wet / humid location			Dry location		
	cleaning	lubricate hinge	lubricate lock	cleaning	lubricate hinge	lubricate lock
WC / SHOWER CUBICLES :						
Axis	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Impact	weekly	monthly	monthly	3 weeks	3 months	3 months
Splash	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Ultima	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Linea*	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Truline*	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Minima*	weekly	monthly	monthly	3 weeks	3 months	3 months
Aqualine	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Coolite*	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Sylan	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Urban*	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Acorn	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Playtime	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
VANITY UNITS :						
Laminate vanity units	daily	n/a	n/a	daily	n/a	n/a
Solid surfacing	daily	n/a	n/a	daily	n/a	n/a
Granite & Quartz units	daily	n/a	n/a	daily	n/a	n/a
DUCT PANELS :						
Laminated ducts	weekly	n/a	n/a	2 weeks	n/a	n/a
Solid Laminate ducts	weekly	n/a	n/a	2 weeks	n/a	n/a
Veneered ducts	weekly	n/a	n/a	2 weeks	n/a	n/a
LOCKERS / BENCHES :						
Aquasafe	weekly	monthly	monthly	2 weeks	3 months	3 months
Amwell Benches	weekly	n/a	n/a	2 weeks	n/a	n/a

Note i) See attached details for cleaning instructions.
Note ii) Cubicle locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such as WD40) should be applied, with any excess lubricant removed.
Note iii) The above recommended periods between cleaning / maintenance represent maximum duration's. In areas of high usage or in particularly hostile environments, the frequency of said processes should be increased.
Note iv) Manufacturers guarantees may be subject to proof of regular maintenance. As such, we recommend that details of cleaning and maintenance regimes are kept at all times.
Note v) Items marked * may have stainless steel components. Please see the attached instructions specific to stainless steel products. Check and if necessary tighten all ironmongery regularly.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for laminate panels

Cleaning

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing.

Step 1 For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. Rinse the panels & dry on completion.

Step 2 For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

Step 3 If stubborn stains persist, use a non scratch cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds.

Step 4 If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes, and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discolouratiion.

Step 5 If the surface has been discoloured through long exposure to industrial grime, clean carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

DO always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest cause of damage to laminate surfaces).

DO wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly.

DO NOT use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces.

Removing access panels

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Keku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled forward from it's normal position.

General comments

In order to avoid water marks / limescale buildup, standing water should be removed from horizontal surfaces. Any water that splashed onto a panel edging should be removed immediately.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for veneered panels

Cleaning

Veneered surfaces should be treated with utmost care. Surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth and furniture polish. DO NOT use abrasive cleaners under any circumstances.

Persistent marks may be removed using a slightly damp cloth (not wet), with panels being dried on completion.

In the event that marks cannot be removed by following the above suggestions, a professional French Polisher should be sought who may be able to remove marks and make good the veneered surfaces on completion.

Removing access panels

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Keku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled forward from it's normal position.

General comments

In order to avoid water marks / limescale buildup, standing water should be removed from horizontal surfaces. Any water that splashed onto a panel edging should be removed immediately.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for laminate cubicles

Cleaning laminate components

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing.

Step 1 For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. Rinse the panels & dry on completion.

Step 2 For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

Step 3 If stubborn stains persist, use a non scratch cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds.

Step 4 If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes, and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discolouratiion.

Step 5 If the surface has been discoloured through long exposure to industrial grime, clean carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

DO always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest cause of damage to laminate surfaces).

DO wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly.

DO NOT use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household.

Cleaning ironmongery

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more that 3 month intervals. A solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly rinsed following use of detergents.

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to avoid scratching the metallic surface.

Maintenance of ironmongery

Cubicle locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts. It is imperative that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for glass cubicles

Cleaning glass components

Glass components should be regularly cleaned using an non abrasive, non toxic detergent and warm soapy water only. The glass should be rinsed on completion and should then be dried and buffed with a soft cloth.

DO NOT use any abrasive materials / cleaning products.

Cleaning ironmongery

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more that 3 month intervals. A solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly rinsed following use of detergents.

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to avoid scratching the metallic surface.

Maintenance of ironmongery

Cubicle locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts. It is imperative that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for veneer cubicles

Cleaning veneer components

Veneer surfaces should be treated with utmost care. Surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth and furniture polish. DO NOT use abrasive cleaners under any circumstances. Persistent marks may be removed using a slightly damp cloth (not wet), with panels being dried on completion. In the event that marks cannot be removed by following the above suggestions, a professional French Polisher should be sought who may be able to remove marks and make good the veneered surfaces on completion.

Cleaning ironmongery

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more that 3 month intervals. A solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly rinsed following use of detergents.

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to avoid scratching the metallic surface.

Maintenance of ironmongery

Cubicle locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts. It is imperative that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for laminate vanity units

Cleaning

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing.

Step 1 For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. Rinse the panels & dry on completion.

Step 2 For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

Step 3 If stubborn stains persist, use a non scratch cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightlywith a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds.

Step 4 If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes, and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discolouratiion.

Step 5 If the surface has been discoloured through long exposure to industrial grime, cleanncarefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

DO always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest cause of damage to laminate surfaces).

DO wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly.

DO NOT use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces.

Removing access under-panels (where applicable)

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Keku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled forward from it's normal position.

General comments

In order to avoid water marks/ limescale buildup, standing water should be removed from horizontal surfaces. Any water that splashed onto a panel edging should be removed immediately.

Ensure the vanity unit is correctly sealed using silicone or similar. Failure to correctly seal the vanity unit may allow water ingress, leading to failure at laminate joints.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for solid surface vanity units

Cleaning

Although liquids will not normally penetrate solid surface units, it is best to wipe up spills as they occur. An ammonia based hardsurface cleaner, a good quality solid surface cleaner or ordinary detergent may be used. Clean the sink or top as normal, with a damp cloth and detergent. Wipe well and rinsing on completion in order to get rid of any oils or fats. Alternatively, a spray hard surface cleaner may be applied, left for a few minutes before rinsing / wiping clean with a damp cloth.

If any stains need more attention, sprinkle a gentle abrasive powder bleach on the damp surface and leave for a few minutes before using a sponge or soft cloth to rub with a circular motion before rinsing, wiping and drying.

AVOID abrasive plastic scouring pads. If hard water scale has built up on the top, a standard household limescale removes can be used per the manufacturers recommendations.

DO rinse off household chemicals immediately, wash surface with warm soapy water and dry.

DO avoid harsh chemical liquids such as oven cleaners, drain cleaners containing caustic soda, rust removers, paint strippers, acetone based nail varnish removers and toilet bowl cleaners.

DO NOT subject solid surface tops to prolonged contact with acids, chlorinated solvents, or ketones which may result in surface discoloration or etching.

Removing access under-panels (where applicable)

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Keku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled forward from it's normal position.

General comments

Solid surface tops are susceptible to small surface scratches, which are especially noticeable in dark colour products. The tops should not be used as a cutting board. Minor cuts and scratches can be sanded lightly with fine sandpaper (240 grit), and then buffed with a Scotch Brite pad or similar. We would always recommend that an expert is employed to make good any marks other than light surface scratches.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for granite and quartz vanity tops

Cleaning natural granite

Granite is a tight grained very hard igneous rock consisting of quartz and other minerals. Granite is supplied polished and presealed. Once sealed, the ongoing maintenance is very simple. However, resealing every one to two years with a water sealant is recommended, depending upon local water conditions and individual cleaning habits.

Regular cleaning should be carried out by washing the surface with soapy water using a non abrasive cloth, and drying with a clean cloth. Diluted stone cleaning products can also be used. Resilient stains can be removed using a more concentrated solution (up to 50%) of a stone cleaning product. The surface should be scrubbed until the stain is removed. The whole surface should then be rinsed with clean water and dried with a clean cloth.

Note : When using cleaning agents, it is strongly recommended that a small test area is attended to prior to cleaning the entire top.

Cleaning quartz

Cleaning procedures are generally as those for natural granite.

Removing access under-panels (where applicable)

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Keku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled forward from it's normal position.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for laminate lockers

Cleaning laminate components

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing.

Step 1 For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. Rinse the panels & dry on completion.

Step 2 For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

Step 3 If stubborn stains persist, use a non scratch cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds.

Step 4 If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes, and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discolouratiion.

Step 5 If the surface has been discoloured through long exposure to industrial grime, clean carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

DO always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest cause of damage to laminate surfaces).

DO wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly.

DO NOT use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces.

Cleaning ironmongery / framework

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more that 3 month intervals. A solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly rinsed following use of detergents.

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to avoid scratching the metallic surface.

Maintenance of ironmongery

Locker locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts.
It is imperative that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

Cleaning & maintenance instructions for bench seating

Cleaning laminate seats

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing.

Step 1 For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. Rinse the panels & dry on completion.

Step 2 For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

Step 3 If stubborn stains persist, use a non scratch cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds.

Step 4 If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes, and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discolouratiion.

Step 5 If the surface has been discoloured through long exposure to industrial grime, clean carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

DO always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest cause of damage to laminate surfaces).

DO wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly.

DO NOT use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces.

Cleaning hard-wood (Iroko) seats

Hardwood surfaces should be treated with utmost care. Surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth and furniture polish. DO NOT use abrasive cleaners under any circumstances.

Persistent marks may be removed using a slightly damp cloth (not wet), with panels being dried on completion.

In the event that marks cannot be removed by following the above suggestions, a professional French Polisher should be sought who may be able to remove marks and make good the hardwood surfaces on completion.

Cleaning ironmongery / framework

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more that 3 month intervals.
A solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used.
A soft cloth, sponge, or natural bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly rinsed following use of detergents.

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating.
Care should be taken in order to avoid scratching the metallic surface.

Cleaning instructions for stainless steel components

Stainless steel is easy to clean. Washing with soap or mild detergent and warm water followed by a clear water rinse is usually adequate for domestic and architectural equipment. Where stainless steel has become extremely dirty with signs of surface discolouration (perhaps following periods of neglect, or misuse) alternative methods of cleaning can be used, as outlined below. It is recommended that in wet areas such as swimming pools, shower cubicles etc., stainless steel should be cleaned a minimum of once a week.

Requirement	Suggested method 1,2	Comments
Routine cleaning of light soiling.	Soap, detergent or dilute (1%) ammonia solution in warm clean water. Apply with a clean sponge, soft cloth or soft fibre brush then rinse in clean water and dry.[6]	Satisfactory on most surfaces.
Fingerprints.	Detergent and warm water, alternatively, hydrocarbon solvent.	Proprietary spray applied polishes available to clean and minimise remarking.
Oil and grease marks.	Mild, non scratching creams and polishes. Apply with soft cloth or soft sponge and rinse off residues with clean water and dry.[6,7]	Avoid cleaning pastes with abrasive additions.[3] Suitable cream cleansers are available with soft calcium carbonate additions, e.g. 'Cif', or with the addition of citric acid, e.g. Shiny Sinks.[1] Do not use chloride solutions.[8,9]
Localised rust stains caused by carbon steel contamination.	Proprietary gels, or 10% phosphoric acid solution (followed by ammonia and water rinses), or oxalic acid solution (followed by water rinse).[6]	Small areas may be treated with a rubbing block comprising fine abrasive in a hard rubber or plastic filler. Carbon steel wool should not be used, nor should pads that have previously been used on carbon steel. A test should be carried out to ensure that the original surface finish is not damaged.
Adherent hard water scales and mortar/cement splashes.	10–15 volume % solution of phosphoric acid. Use warm, neutralise with dilute ammonia solution, rinse with clean water and dry.[6] Alternatively soak in a 25% vinegar solution and use a nylon brush to remove deposits.	Proprietary formulations available with surfactant additions. Take special care when using hydrochloric acid based mortar removers.[8,9]
Heating or heavy discolouration.	a) Non scratching cream or polish e.g. Solvol Auto Chrome Metal Polish.[1,9] b) Nylon type pad, e.g. 'Scotchbrite'.[3,4,5]	a) Creams are suitable for most finishes, but only use 'Solvol' on bright polished surfaces. Some slight scratching can be left. b) Use on brushed and polished finishes along the grain.
Badly neglected surfaces with accumulated grime deposits.	A fine abrasive paste as used for car body refinishing e.g. 'T-cut' all paste material and dried.[1]	May brighten dull finishes. To avoid a patchy appearance, the whole surface may need to be treated.
Paint, graffiti.	Proprietary alkaline or solvent paint strippers, depending upon paint type. Use soft nylon or bristle brush on patterned surfaces.	Apply as directed by manufacturer.

Cleaning instructions for stainless steel components

Notes

1. The products referenced in this information sheet are understood to be suitable for stainless steels. However, no endorsement of the products or their manufacturers is implied and it is acknowledged that other manufacturing companies may provide products of equal or better quality. The following companies manufacture proprietary names mentioned: 'Cif' – Lever Brothers Ltd, 'Shiny Sinks' – Home Products Ltd, 'Ajax' – Colgate Palmolive Ltd, 'D7 Stainless Steel Polish' – Diversey Ltd, 'TCut' – Automotive Chemicals Ltd and 'Solvol Auto Chrome Metal Polish' – Hammerite Products Ltd.

2. Cleaning agents should be approved for use under the relevant national environmental regulations and prepared and used in accordance with the manufacturers or suppliers' health and safety instructions. Solvents should not be used in enclosed areas.

3. Nylon abrasive pads should be adequate for dealing with most deposits. If a more severe treatment is needed to mask coarse scratches or physical damage on a surface, use the finest abrasive medium consistent with covering the damage marks. With directional brushed and polished finishes, align and blend the new "scratch pattern" with the original finish, stages of finishing. Avoid using hard objects such as knife blades and certain abrasive/ scouring agents as it is possible to introduce surface scuffs and scratches. Scratching is particularly noticeable on sink drainer areas. These are usually superficial and can be removed with proprietary stainless steel cleaners or, alternatively, with a car paint restorer, such as 'TCut'.

4. If wire brushes are used, these should be made of a similar or better grade of stainless steel. Ensure that all abrasive media used are free from sources of contamination, especially iron and chlorides.

5. When cleaning a surface with any chemical preparation or abrasive medium, a trial should be done on a small, unobtrusive hidden or non critical area of the surface, to check that the resulting finish matches with the original.

6. To avoid water marks, use clean rinsing water, such as reasonable quality potable (tap) water. Drying marks may be avoided using an air blower or wiping with clean disposable wipes.

7. Rust marks or staining on stainless steels is unlikely to be the result of corrosion to the stainless steel itself (similar marks may also be found on porcelain and plastic sinks). These marks are likely to result from small particles of carbon steel from wire wool or scouring pads becoming attached or embedded in the surface. In the damp environment of a sink, these iron particles rust and cause staining. Rust marks may be removed using nonscratching creams of alternatively using an oxalic acid solution, where iron particles have been embedded in the surface. Special precautions are necessary with oxalic acid as, although it may not 'burn' unprotected skin, it is poisonous if ingested.

8. Chloride containing solutions, including hydrochloric acid based cleaning agents and hypochlorite bleaches can cause unacceptable surface staining and pitting, and should not be used in contact with stainless steels. Under no circumstances should concentrated bleaches contact decorative stainless steel surfaces. Hydrochloric acid based solutions, such as silver cleaners, or building mortar removal solutions must not be used in contact with stainless steels. Hypochlorite containing bleaches must be used in the dilutions suggested in the manufacturers' instructions and contact times kept to a minimum. Thorough rinsing after use is very important. A frequent cause of staining and micropitting of stainless steels is splashing with undiluted bleach solutions and mortar cleaners.

9. If all the suggestions and actions in the table have been attempted unsuccessfully, it is worth bearing in mind that stainless steel can be mechanically polished or electro polished by specialists on site. Stainless steel is homogeneous and does not rely on surface plating for its corrosion resistance. If in difficulty contact your supplier or the BSSA.

Care and maintenance of stainless steel

Introduction

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 completed maintenance free. In order to achieve maximum corrosion resistance and aesthetic appeal, the surface of the stainless steel must be kept clean. Provided cleaning schedules are carried out on a regular basis, good performance and long service life will result.

Factors affecting maintenance

Surface contamination and the formation of deposits on the surface of the stainless steel must be prevented. These deposits may be minute particles of iron or rust generated during construction. Industrial and even naturally occurring atmospheric conditions can produce deposits which can be equally corrosive.

Working environments also provide aggressive conditions such as heat and humidity in swimming pool buildings. These conditions can result in surface discolouration of stainless steels and so maintenance on a more frequent basis may be required.

Modern processes use many cleaners, sterilises and bleaches for hygienic purposes. Proprietary solutions, when used in accordance with makers instructions, should be safe but is used incorrectly (e.g. warm or concentrated), may cause discolouration or corrosion on stainless steels. Strong acid solutions are sometimes used to clean masonry and tiling of buildings. These acids should never be used where contact with metals, including stainless steel, is possible. If this happens, the acid solution must be removed immediately, followed by dilution and rinsing with clean water.

Maintenance programme

With care taken during fabrication and installation, cleaning before 'handover' should not present any problems. More attention may be required if the installation period has been prolonged or handover delayed. Where surface contamination is suspected, immediate cleaning after site fixing should avoid problems later.

The frequency of cleaning is dependent on the application – a simple rule is:

Clean the metal when it is dirty in order to restore it's original appearance.

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