

Introduction:

All grades of stainless steel can stain and discolour due to surface deposits and must never be accepted as completely maintenance free. In order to achieve maximum corrosion resistance the surface of the stainless steel must be kept clean.

Stainless steel is highly rust resistant and would not be expected to rust under normal conditions during the expected lifetime of the product. Marks that appear to be rust almost always turn out to be discolouration or staining arising from poor cleaning regimes.

Provided the grade of stainless steel and the surface finish are correctly selected and cleaning carried out on a regular scheduled basis, good performance and long service life are assured.

Factors Affecting Maintenance:

Surface contamination and the formation of deposits must be prevented. Such deposits may be minute particles of iron or rust left over from the building of new premises and not removed until after the stainless steel items have been fixed. Industrial and even naturally occurring atmospheric conditions can produce deposits which can be equally corrosive, e.g. salt deposits from marine conditions.

If the working environment creates unusual conditions e.g. high humidity, such as in a swimming pool, this may increase the speed of discoloration and therefore maintenance may be required on a more frequent basis. Modern processes use many cleaners and sterilizers for hygienic purposes. Most of these proprietary solutions, when used in accordance with makers' instructions are safe but if used incorrectly (e.g. warm or concentrated) can cause discoloration and corrosion on the surface of any quality of stainless steel. Bleaches should not be used. Strong acid solutions are sometimes used to clean masonry and tiling of buildings but they should never be permitted to come into contact with metals, including stainless steel. If this should happen, the acid solution must be removed immediately using copious applications of water.

Maintenance Programme:

With care taken during fabrication and installation, cleaning before handing over to the client should present no special problems, although more attention than normal may be required if the installation period has been prolonged. Where surface contamination is suspected, immediate attention to cleaning after site fixing will ensure trouble free service. Food handling, pharmaceutical, aerospace and certain nuclear applications require extremely high levels of cleanliness applicable to each industry.

Advice is often sought concerning the frequency of cleaning stainless steel and the answer is quite simple "clean the metal when it is dirty in order to restore its original appearance." This may vary from once to four times a year for external applications or it may be once a day for an item in hygienic or aggressive situations. Frequency and cost of cleaning is lower with stainless steel than with many other materials and will often outweigh the initial higher cost of this superior product.

How to clean stainless steel:

Problem:

Routine cleaning, all finishes

Use soap or a mild detergent (such as Fairy Liquid), sponge, rinse with clean water and wipe dry if necessary

Fingerprints, all finishes

Use soap and warm water or organic solvent (e.g. Usher / Walker Thinners PF8017, acetone, alcohol).
Rinse with clean water and wipe dry if necessary.

Stubborn stains and discolouration, all finishes

Use mild cleaning solutions (e.g. Jif, Goddard Stainless Steel Care)

Rust and other corrosion,

Use Oxalic Acid. The cleaning solution should be applied with a swab and allowed to stand for 15-20 minutes before being washed away with water. Use Jif for a final clean and rinse well with clean water.
(Observe precautions when using acid cleaners)

Scratches on brushed satin finish

For slight scratches use Scotchbrite pads. For deeper scratches ensure polishing along the grain of the satin finish. Clean with soap or detergent. Do not use ordinary steel wool as iron particles may become embedded in the stainless steel causing further surface problems.

Precautions:

Observe all safety precautions when cleaning: use rubber gloves and if using a solvent keep well ventilated and do not smoke!

Acids should only be used for on-site cleaning when all else has failed.

Introduction

Solid surface material is a "New Generation" mineral material consisting of approximately one third acrylic resin (polymethyl methacrylate or PMMA) and 5% natural pigments. Its main constituent, comprising 70%, is the natural mineral aluminium hydroxide (ATH) obtained from bauxite (aluminium ore).

The material used in the manufacture of our ReZina washtroughs sets new standards in terms of environmentally-friendly building utilising a minimum of 12% recycled material, dry weight, for its manufacture. (*certified by Scientific Certification Systems registration SCMS-MC-01491 2008- 2010) and up to a maximum of 41% recycled content (* certified by LG Hausys Europe GmbH, Frankfurt am Main 2010). These materials have additionally been certified as "outstanding" by the Korea Clean Air Association.

Exact recycled content varies as different mineral contents for differing finishes contain varying quantities of recycled material.

These materials are used for our standard colour range and the full HI-MACS® colour range. HI-MACS® Eden enables buildings to obtain up to 2 credits in the following LEED categories:

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ)

LEED IEQ 4.1: Materials with minimal emissions, adhesives and sealants (1 credit)

Materials & Resources (MR)

LEED MR 4.1: Materials with a recycled content of more than 10% (1 credit)

LEED MR 4.2: Materials with a recycled content of more than 20% (2 credits)

We can also manufacture using DuPont™ Corian® material and this has also been certified by SCS as containing between 6% and 20% recycled materials. This material is also eligible for LEED credit and has been fully tested and certified by several organisations in the USA.

The solid surface material is formed into our ReZina range of wash troughs using a two-stage thermal curing process giving the material superb strength and durability characteristics. After initial moulding and curing the wash troughs can then be drilled to provide tap holes as required. The units are then given a final sanding and polish to achieve a high quality finish.

ReZina wash troughs can be supplied in a wide range of colours but as standard there eight basic colours including white. Wall mounted units are supplied with fascia panels which can be in the same colour as the trough itself or in a contrasting colour. Many other colours are available (please enquire) so that a ReZina trough can be matched to your precise décor needs.

The troughs are supplied in standard lengths or made to measure up to 3000mm in length. Wall mounted troughs are supplied with wall mounting brackets and all troughs are supplied with unslotted flush grated waste fittings.

Due to the wide range of options available, ReZina troughs require 3-4 weeks lead time to delivery as each one is made to order.

Care and Maintenance of ReZina products

Acorn Thorn Solid Surface Wash Troughs are manufactured from HI-MACS®. All HI-MACS® products are manufactured in accordance with the ISO-9001 Quality Process for Systems and Processes and the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard.

HI-MACS® is hard-wearing, extremely repellent to stains and is therefore very easy to look after. The following few simple tips and hints for caring for the product so that it will retain its exceptional quality for many years to come.

General cleaning

The non-porous surface may be simply and easily cleaned with a damp cloth or sponge and a mild detergent.

A domestic scouring agent may be used on all matt finishes. It is also useful to wipe the surface occasionally with a scouring agent or wet sponge to retain the even finish of the product.

Tough Stains:

Tougher stains, caused by food colouring, tea or fruit juice can easily be removed using a bleaching agent (do not leave in contact with the work surface for more than five minutes). Clean the surface with a domestic all-purpose cleaner and rinse with clean water.

A scouring agent may be used on matt finishes. Nail varnish can easily be removed with nail varnish remover (acetone-free) or a scouring agent.

Warning

Some cleaning agents contain acids, such as methyl chloride or acetone. Avoid using these on a HI-MACS® surface.

Should one of these products accidentally come into contact with the solid surface material, as a precautionary measure rinse the surface with soapy water to prevent any discolouring taking place.

Hot objects

Hot saucepans or pots straight out of the oven or from the hob should not be laid directly on the HI-MACS® surface. Place a mat or board underneath to prevent any damage to the product. If boiling liquids are poured into HI-MACS® sinks or basins, cold water should also be poured in at the same time.

Burn marks

Small burn marks or marks caused by nicotine can simply be removed using a scouring agent or an abrasive sponge. Should this give the high-gloss finish a matt appearance, rubbing the surface with a scouring pad will quickly return it to its high-gloss state.

Sharp objects

HI-MACS® copes effortlessly with the wear and tear of everyday life, however pointed or sharp-edged objects can leave cuts or scratches on the HI-MACS® surface.

Smaller cuts and scratches can be easily repaired but we recommend the services of a professional for deep cuts.