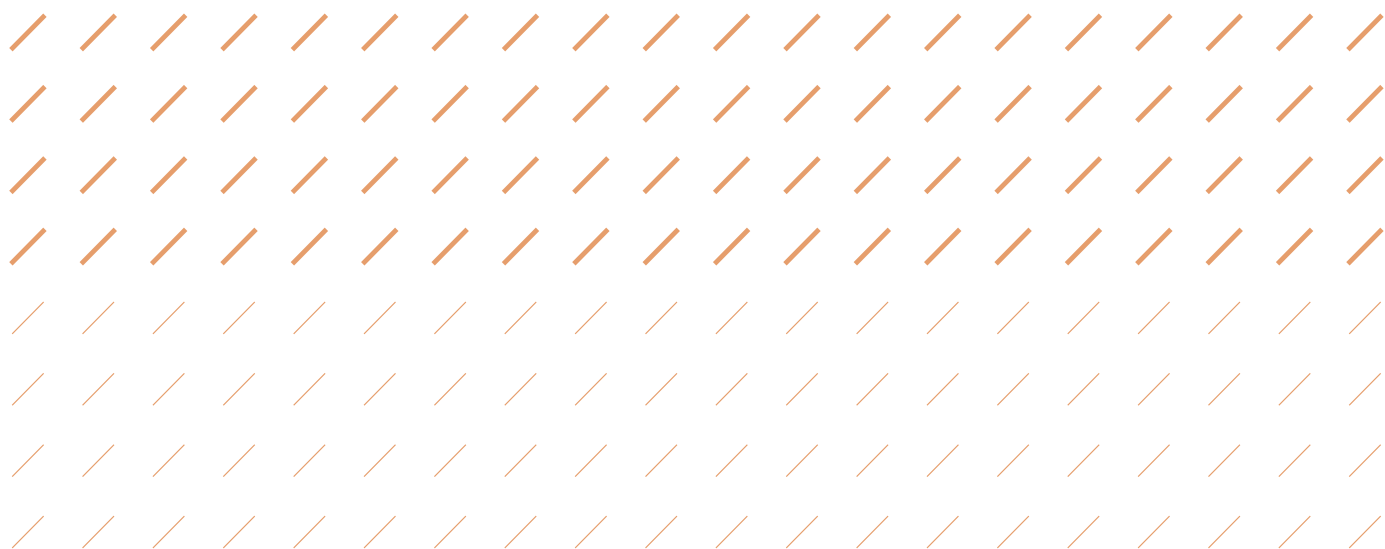
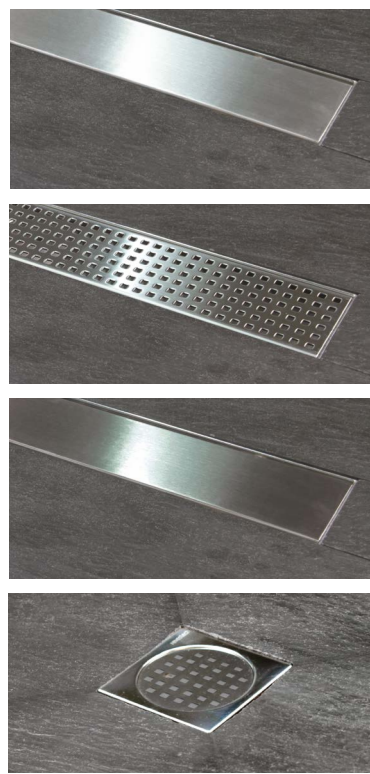
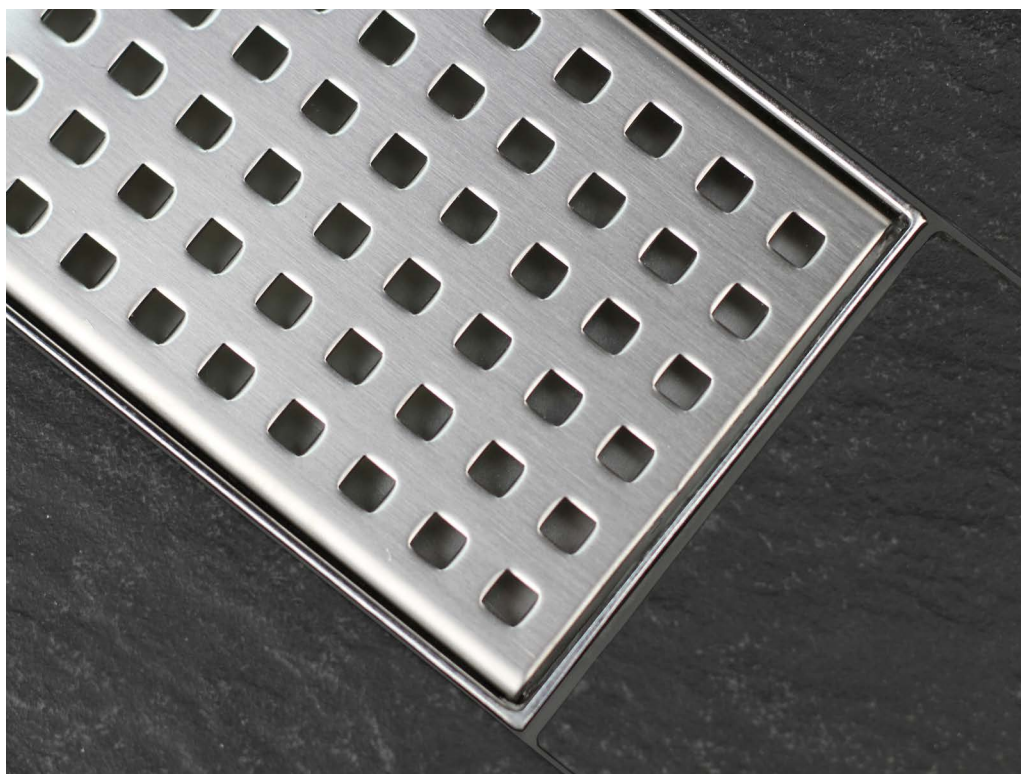


# HOW TO CLEAN STAINLESS STEEL?



FOR THE PERFECT MAINTENANCE OF STAINLESS-STEEL SURFACES,  
PROPER CLEANING PRACTICES ARE ESSENTIAL.  
THESE PRACTICES KEEP SURFACES FREE OF DIRT AND  
EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE STAINLESS STEEL INDEFINITELY.

## Basic cleaning

- Periodically, wash the surfaces with water and neutral soap until removing debris and dirt completely.
- Use cloths and/or sponges that do not scratch the stainless steel.
- Never forget to rinse with water after cleaning.
- A final drying will enhance the beauty of the surfaces.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Bleaches should not be used. Diluted bleaches can be used if the contact with the surface is immediately followed by abundant rinsing with water until the complete elimination of the bleach from the stainless steel.

## Cleaning of different finishes

Stainless-steel surfaces can present many diverse finishes. From the polished types in which the surface behaves like a mirror, to the ground ones with different degrees of roughness. According to the finish, some surfaces will be more prone to get dirty than others. In the same way, it will be necessary to use different cleaning methods in order to give each surface the most appropriate treatment.

Thus, when cleaning the different surfaces, special attention must be paid to the tools that will be in contact with the stainless steel.

As a rule, cloths and sponges do not scratch the stainless steel, and only in the case of rougher surfaces, specific scouring pads may be used. In these cases, the rubbing must be done following the same direction of the grain so as not to alter the surface and modify its brightness.

As a general rule, it is appropriate to make a test in an inconspicuous area of the installation, in order to observe how the chosen tool affects the surface of the stainless steel.

The great advantage of these steels, apart from their excellent behavioural properties, is that they are easy to clean, which allows their surfaces to be kept in optimum condition.

## Remove stains

### Fingerprints, grease or oil stains.

If a simple washing with soap and water is not enough to remove this type of stains, the stainless-steel surfaces can be treated with alcohol and / or acetone in order to remove the marks left by grease and/or oil residues. For a perfect finish wash then with water and neutral soap followed by a rinse with clean water. Dry the surface.

### Adhesives.

Adhesive residues of labels on stainless steel surfaces must be removed with a suitable solvent. In many cases, rubbing the adhesive with olive oil is sufficient to remove it from the surface. In other cases, alcohol and/or acetone can be used. After the cleaning, it is always recommended a wash with water and neutral soap. Rinse thoroughly with water and dry.

### Paint.

The elimination of paint stains from stainless-steel surfaces will be conditioned by the type of solvent with which the paint has been formulated. In general, organic solvents can be used, and it is advisable to wash the surface with neutral soap and water until the solvent is removed. Rinse abundantly with water and dry. Many times, it is necessary to use a scraper, but it must be carefully used so as not to scratch the stainless-steel surfaces.

### Water stains on the surface.

In some places, due to the hardness of running water, when stainless steel surfaces are air-dried, traces can be left by the elements carried by this water. The addition of a solution composed of 1 part of vinegar and 3 of water eliminates this type of stains. If necessary, heat the solution. Immediately after removing the stains, wash the surfaces with plenty of water until the complete removal of the previous acid solution. Dry the surface.

### Cement.

The best way to ensure that cement does not leave marks on the stainless-steel surfaces is to simply remove it with water when it is still wet. If the cement is allowed to dry on the surface, it will produce a fully adhered product that is difficult to remove. Although hydrochloric acid is known to dissolve cement, it should not be used on stainless-steel surfaces, as it damages steel. In some cases, phosphoric acid could remove cement stains, but in case it is used, it must be done in a very diluted solution with water in order not to damage the stainless steel. Special care must be taken in its handling, and it must be removed from the surface with an abundant rinsing with water until the complete elimination of the acid is assured.

### Iron contamination.

Sometimes and due to mishandling, stainless steel surfaces can be contaminated by iron either from contact with carbon steel tools, splashing in welding operations or simply scratching by some piece of iron. When these iron particles are in contact with the surface of the stainless steel, a strong galvanic pair is produced and, in the presence of a suitable electrolyte such as environmental humidity, iron oxidation occurs. The iron that acts as an anode is oxidised against the stainless steel (cathode), and a strong orange-brown colouring typical of iron oxides appears. Although initially the steel is not affected, over time and by differential aeration processes, stainless steel surfaces can be damaged.

In emerging states, a simple rubbing with scotch-brite-type scouring pads can eliminate surface contamination. Sandpaper can also be used to remove the iron particles from the surface. Since these methods can scratch the surfaces depending on the finish of the stainless steel, other actions can also be recommended, such as using acidic solutions with nitric or phosphoric content. On the market there are stainless steel cleaners containing phosphoric and nitric pickling products which can also be used.

The use of these surface cleaning methods involves the employment of very careful working standards in order to avoid unnecessary risks from the use of these chemicals. If the damage is very severe, mechanical treatment may be necessary to remove the affected area and thus restore the stainless-steel surfaces.