STEEL LINE

Swimming Pool Equipment – Care & Maintenance Guide

Why use Stainless Steel?

Much of the popularity of stainless-steel stems from the fact that it offers and attractive appearance with excellent corrosion resistance, which ensures a long service life with little maintenance. There is no need for painting, protective coatings, or replacement of corroded parts, as is so often necessary with other materials.

The corrosion resistance of stainless steel is due to the presence of a chromium-rich oxide film on the surface. This film is tightly adherent and self-repairing if the surface is broken or damaged by grinding, sawing, scratching or knocking-provided there is a source of oxygen present.

Failing to clean stainless steel can lead to a deterioration of the surface appearance and can sometimes- quite needlessly- result in corrosion.

Proper cleaning will ensure that the steel retains its original finish throughout its life.

All grades of stainless steel will stain and discolour due to surface deposits and can never be accepted as completely maintenance free. To achieve maximum corrosion resistance, the surface of the stainless steel must be kept clean. Provided the grade of stainless steel and the surface finish are correctly selected and cleaning schedules carried out on a regular basis, good performance and long surface life are assured.

Maintenance Programme

Regularity depends on the environment but as a rule in a swimming pool environment the stainless steel ***should be cleaned after every use***.

1. **Wash down surfaces with warm soapy water (*fairy liquid*) and then rinse with cold water as required.**
2. **For any stubborn stains, apply Cif cream (*not Cif with bleach*) by paintbrush and rub with clean cloths or use a plastic brush (*car wash type*), again rinse with cold clean water.**
3. **Any staining still left may require acid cleaning. Please refer back to Steel Line Ltd.**

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 encourage a trouble-free product. Food handling, pharmaceutical, aerospace, and certain nuclear applications require extremely high levels of cleanliness applicable to each industry.

Tea Staining

Definition:

Stainless steel enjoys a strong and enduring reputation for long term appearance and structural integrity. Like all materials they may become stained or discoloured over time, impairing the overall look. This brown discolouration is referred to as '*Tea Staining*'. Tea staining can be defined as '*Discolouration of the surface of stainless steel that does not affect the structural integrity or the longevity of the material*.' These are just dirt particles in the ozone that stick to the stainless steel.

Contributing Factors:

The relationships between the contributing factors are complex, but generally become increasingly critical closer to marine or areas where chemicals are apparent. For example, a swimming pool environment.

Environmental Factors:

Tea staining occurs most commonly within 5 miles of the coast and other similar environments where it becomes progressively worse closer to the source. However, wind exposure, pollution levels and higher temperatures can create environments where tea staining may occur in other inland areas.

Tea Staining Example Image:

Maintenance:

As with most outdoor products occasional maintenance is required to ensure protection from the elements. Wash down surfaces with warm soapy water (*fairy liquid*) and then rinse with cold water as required. For any stubborn stains, apply Cif cream (*not Cif with bleach*) by paintbrush and rub with clean cloths or use a plastic brush (*car wash type*), again rinse with cold clean water. Regular treatment will aid the life and appearance of the product.

Guarantee

We will not assume responsibility for corrosion or any other resulting damage to our products where they are installed in areas in which chemicals or salts are present and the cleaning regime is not followed.