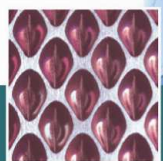
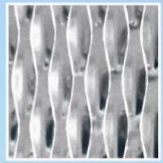


# Cleaning Instructions for Rimex Group finishes.



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**Rimex Metals Group:**

**CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIMEX'S STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This document is intended to provide assistance in cleaning stainless steel materials supplied by a Rimex Metals Group company.

The information provided is a guideline document. As a guideline, its recommendations should always be independently confirmed and tested before being applied on any scale.

Independent sources include your national stainless steel association, any reputable stainless steel supplier or international institutions such as the Nickel Development Institute, British Stainless Steel Institute, Stainless Steel Institute of North America, Southern Africa Stainless Steel Development Association, Australian Stainless Steel Development Association etc.

The reader is advised to undertake its own research and to properly test any suggested method rather than rely in anyway upon the information provided herein.

No Rimex Metals Group company is responsible for the advice contained herein. Further, responsibility is not accepted for any claim(s) or damage(s) arising as a result of the suggested methods of cleaning that are detailed below.

**PREVENTIVE CLEANING REGIMES:**

Stainless steel building components that are installed outdoors such as roof and wall facades should be kept clean by normal rainfall if adequately designed. In addition, wherever the location of a building, it is advisable to follow a regular cleaning regime.

Regular cleaning will maintain the original sheen of the material as well as assisting in the removal of impurities and other potential contaminants which can cause the corrosion of stainless steel.

The more polluted the environment the more frequent a cleaning regime will be required. Marine, industrial, polluted and other potentially corrosive climates require regular maintenance due to the presence of salt ions which can be a cause of corrosion.

The intervals between cleaning will depend upon the grade of stainless steel used and the location of the building.

For general maintenance purposes washing is best carried out with soap or a mild detergent based solution in warm water followed by rinsing with clean cold water. The appearance of the surface can be improved further if it is wiped dry.

## **THE CLEANING OF STAINLESS STEEL, PATTERNED & BEAD BLASTED STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES:**

A guideline to the appropriate methods of cleaning of stainless steel and patterned and bead blasted finishes are as follows:

<b>Problem:</b>	<b>Corrective Treatment:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Fingerprints and stains	Clean with a soft cloth soap and water or with a bleach free glass cleaner. In more extreme cases use solvent.	
Protective tape residue.	Clean with a soft cloth and solvent followed by water and/or a window cleaning solution.	There are proprietary solvents and cleaners available.
Graffiti.	Clean with a soft cloth and solvent followed by water and/or a window cleaning solution.	There are proprietary solvents and cleaners available.
Silicon compounds.	Clean with a soft cloth and solvent followed by water and/or a window cleaning solution.	There are proprietary solvents and cleaners available.
Paint stains.	Clean with a soft cloth and solvent followed by water and/or a window cleaning solution.	There are proprietary solvents and cleaners available.

Should the above methods of treatment not prove adequate it is advisable that you to seek further advice.

As a general rule do not use the following on stainless steel:

- Cleaning agents containing bleach should not be left in contact with stainless steel. If bleach is needed it should only be used in the strengths prescribed by the manufacturer and never soaked for longer than 30 minutes, after which the stainless steel should be rinsed thoroughly with clean water.
- On no account should wire wool pads be used unless they are made of stainless steel and unless it is understood that they will visibly and permanently scratch the material.
- Harsh abrasives and scouring materials should not be used for cleaning stainless steel as they will leave scratch marks in the surface and damage the appearance of the material. Likewise, do not use wire brushes, scrapers or contaminated scouring pads.
- If the stainless steel component has a polish grain direction, any cleaning with abrasives should be carried out along this grain and not across it.
- After the use of wet cleaning aids such as cloths and pads always wipe the surface dry to prevent the formation of water stains.

## **THE CLEANING OF COLOURED AND ETCHED STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES:**

Do not use abrasive cleaning solutions or abrasive cleaning apparatus such as cloths or brushes when cleaning coloured stainless steel as these will scratch and mark the material. Both must be non-abrasive to prevent any damage to the material.

Always clean in the direction of the grain.

For the cleaning of larger areas try an industrial steam cleaner. For smaller areas try a reputable clear liquid window cleaner that does not contain bleach. Alternatively try soap and water applied with a soft cloth.

Organic solvents such as acetone can be used to remove oil and grease. Any residue left by the solvent must then be washed away.

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