Care and Maintenance of Freedom Shower Seats

All Freedom Showers tub and shower seat frames and grab bars are fabricated using #304, 18/8 stainless steel, which is a chromium-nickel alloy. Stainless steel relies primarily upon the presence of chromium to achievement stainless qualities, namely corrosion resistance.

There are 3 common contributors to surface discoloration on stainless steel:

1) When #304 stainless steel is cold worked, such as in forming and bending, or heated, as in welding component parts, the microstructure of the material is changed. Ferrous particles in the material can be released to the surface in the affected area, which may cause surface oxidation and magnetic qualities to appear in the material.

2) “Free Iron” can be introduced to #304 stainless steel in any environment, prior to processing, during fabrication and post-production. This is where iron particles are introduced to the surface of the material and react with water or humidity.

3) Caustic chemicals may cause blemishes on the surface of the #304 stainless steel.

In all three cases discoloration or oxidation is typically a surface condition that can be remedied with the following actions:

For products with a satin stainless finish, use a non-metallic, Scotch-Brite scouring pad and a mildly abrasive cleanser such as a Soft Scrub to clean the surface of the material where discoloration has taken place. Clean thoroughly, scrubbing in a direction consistent with the grain direction of the finish on the product.

For items with a **polished stainless** finish, we recommend using a soft cloth with a small amount of ammonia diluted in water, or household glass cleaner, and wipe thoroughly until all discoloration is removed. Extra attention should be given to weld joints, or areas where ferrous particles may be trapped.

Once the discoloration has been removed and the finish is consistent in all areas of the product, wipe clean with damp cloth to remove all cleanser residue, and then with soft dry cloth until dry. Once clean, it is acceptable to apply a small amount of protectant such as WD-40 or “Everbrite” to stainless steel, making sure to completely remove any oily residue before use.

Coarse abrasive such as sandpaper or steel wool, or any type of bleach should not be used on Naugahyde, phenolic, or stainless steel.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us for recommendations on your specific product or project.

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