



## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF STAINLESS STEEL CLADDING**

### **1. INTRODUCTION:**

- a. Dependent upon service conditions, stainless will occasionally stain or discolor due to surface deposits. In order to achieve maximum inherent properties of stainless steel, the surface should be kept clean.
- b. With regular cleaning schedule, stainless will outperform and provide an outstanding performance and service life.

### **2. ADVERSE CONDITIONS:**

- a. Surface contamination and the formulation of mortar/cement deposits must be prevented. These deposits will discolor stainless steel.
- b. Carbon steel airborne particles at jobsites will settle on stainless steels and produce a "rusting" appearance. The deposits must be avoided for two reasons;
  - i. Due to the "rusting appearance.
  - ii. Due to the possibility of scratching the surface while cleaning the discoloration.
  - iii. Jobsite paint splatter
  - iv. Jobsite scratches from mishandling.

### **3. MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:**

- a. Where surface contamination is suspected, immediately clean and correct site conditions so as to prevent problems later.
- b. General application cleaning frequencies are as follows:
  - i. Hygienic: daily and as required to maintain hygiene.
  - ii. Suburban or Rural; 6-12 month intervals or as appropriate to location and design.
  - iii. Industrial or Urban; 3-6 months intervals or as appropriate to location and design.
  - iv. Coastal or Marine; 6-12 months intervals or as appropriate to location and design.

### **4. CLEANING METHODS:**

- a. When cleaning stainless always clean with the grain so as to not scratch the finish.
- b. When cleaning use a clean soft sponge, soft cloth or soft fiber and rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry.
- c. Light soiling or fingerprints: Wash with soap or a mild detergent and warm water followed by a clean water rinse.
- d. Oil & Grease: Use Hydrocarbon Solvents (methylated spirit, isopropyl alcohol or acetone)



- e. Stubborn stains, water marking and light “rusting” staining: Mild non-scratching creams and polishes. Apply per manufactures instructions, always following the grain. Rinse off residue with clean water and dry.
  - f. Mortar cement splashes: Use a 10 to 15% volume of phosphoric acid. Use a warm neutralize solution with diluted ammonia, rinse with clean water and dry. Alternatively soak in a 25% vinegar solution and use a nylon brush to remove deposits. Do not use Hydrochloric acid based mortar removers. Solutions containing chloride can cause unacceptable surface staining and pitting.
  - g. Paint and Graffiti: Use Proprietary alkaline or solvent paint strippers, depending upon paint type. Use soft nylon bristle brush on pattered or textured surfaces. Apply as directed by manufacture and rinse with clean water and dry.
5. **WHAT NOT TO DO:**
- a. Do not use abrasive cleaners that will scratch the surface. When in doubt test on a hidden spot.
  - b. Do not forget to rinse, it could stain or damage the surface.
  - c. Do not use steel wool or steel brushes, they can leave particals and begin rusting and staining the surface.
  - d. Do not use cleaners containing chlorine, stay away from bleach when cleaning stainless.