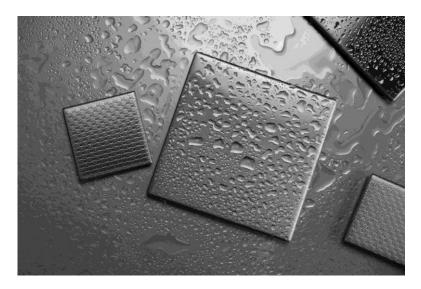


# Cleaning instructions for stainless steel sheets

**Description** 

Surfaces of all stainless-steel sheets including the colored surfaces of SteelColor®

These cleaning instructions briefly describe the correct way to clean stainless steel sheets with the aim of achieving long-lasting, consistent and beautiful surfaces.



#### **Fundamentals**

- I. Note on SteelColor® colored sheets. The color system of SteelColor® colored sheets is more susceptible to damage than the base material itself. Cleaning agents with slightly abrasive components, which can sometimes be used on uncolored stainless steel, are unsuitable for colored stainless steel surfaces.
- II. Mild cleaning and degreasing agents, such as those used for car paintwork, are recommended. Damage of any kind must be avoided at all costs, as the only "repair option" is to replace the affected components.
- III. Usually, the surfaces of the components are protected by self-adhesive, removable films until after final assembly. However, not all films are resistant to ageing and should therefore not remain on the surface for too long. Special UV-resistant films should also be used for outdoor applications. Otherwise, the film may tear when removed or leave adhesive residue on the surface. Before removing such residues, the recommendations of both the film and sheet manufacturer should be obtained.
- IV. High-pressure cleaning, for example, can scratch sensitive surfaces. It is better to lightly rinse off soiling with a weak jet of water. If any residue remains, it should be carefully removed with a soft cloth or a soft brush.
- V. As a general rule, any scratching of the surface should be avoided. Brushes with metal bristles or



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abrasive cleaning agents are therefore generally unsuitable.

VI. Further information on cleaning stainless steels can be found in the following Eurolnox publication:

Cleaning stainless steels in the construction industry

## **Cleaning products**

#### **Recommended products:**

- Nitro thinner
- (remove silicone residues with acetone)
- Liquid cleaner or glass cleaner
- (non-chloride containing and non-abrasive)
- PH-neutral liquid soap
- (in the case of stubborn dirt)
- Soft cloths
- (always use in the direction of rolling lengthwise and rub/wipe with little pressure)

#### Do not use:

- Products containing halides (chlorides bromides - iodides), especially those containing chlorides (salt) and hydrochloric acid
- Cleaners based on hydrogen peroxide with halide ions
- Bleaching agents, hypochlorous acid, acidbased products
- Cleaners containing abrasive powders
- Silver cleaners
- Cleaners for which the chemical composition is not known
- Steel wool, brushes or pot cleaners
- Rough cloths or rough paper
- Tools that have previously been used to clean other metallic surfaces.



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## **Cleaning instructions**



First remove the protective film.

If you still see marks or stains, clean the surface first with a soft cloth and nitro thinner and then with PH-neutral soap or a liquid cleaner. Always work lengthwise in the direction of rolling, never make circular movements.



For everyday cleaning (maintenance), we recommend using PH-neutral soap or liquid cleaner in conjunction with a soft cloth. Always work lengthwise in the direction of rolling, never make circular movements. Cleaning should always be carried out before assembly or before the surface comes into contact with dusty or abrasive substances.



During recurring cleaning, special care must be taken to ensure that work surfaces that have already been protected/covered are not re-contaminated by work carried out next to them.

When used in aggressive environments, e.g. industrial dirt, heavy air pollution or traffic dust, it is recommended to clean the surfaces regularly to prevent excessive build-up of dirt. Before mechanical cleaning, it is best to remove all soluble dirt particles using compressed air. This is to prevent the particles from causing scratches. To prevent watermarks, it is recommended to dry the surface at the end of cleaning. To prevent possible iron contamination, make sure that the tools and aids used have not previously been used on other metals. The tools and aids used to clean stainless steel should be used exclusively for this purpose.

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