

Dear Friend,

Each month, BOWA Home Advisor provides you with important tips on how to improve and protect your home's value. We hope the following is helpful.



Is your stainless stainless?

Stainless steel is an alloy of iron, which contains more than 10% chromium. During the production process, the chromium forms a protective coating on the surface. This protective coating helps to prevent rusting and creates a virtually stain resistant material. However, if not properly cared for, kitchen spills, dirt, oils and the wrong cleaning products put stainless steel at risk of corrosion and rust.

To maintain the integrity of the material, keep in mind the following helpful hints when caring for your stainless steel appliances, sinks, fixtures and surfaces.

Stainless Steel Cleaning Tips

- Salt and some cooking liquids may pit and stain the surface, so it is best to remove any film and/or spills immediately.
- Routine cleaning can be accomplished by using a cloth with warm water and a mild detergent.
- For best results, always use a soft, clean, lint-free cloth, such as a microfiber cloth or a chamois. All work should follow the grain direction of the finish, and better results are obtained by keeping the cloth in continuous contact with the metal.
- Fingerprints and greasy splatters can be easily cleaned with a spray degreaser. Spray the cleaner on a cloth and wipe the surface, then immediately buff the area dry to avoid streaking.
- Tougher cleanups can be handled with a nonabrasive cleaner like Bon Ami or a paste made with baking soda.
- After cleaning, be sure to thoroughly rinse and dry the area to prevent spots.
- Hard water stains can be removed using a mixture of white or cider vinegar and water.

- To remove streaks after cleaning, try rubbing the surface down with olive oil and then buffing with a soft, clean cloth.
- Rubbing alcohol with a soft cloth is a good option for removing sticky residue from tape or other adhesives.
- The appearance of stains and scratches may be minimized or removed with a stainless steel cleaner. Before beginning, read the directions and warnings to ensure the cleaner is safe for brushed chrome or stainless steel, and test the cleaner in an inconspicuous spot. One recommended product is Signature Polish, which is available from Signature Limited Laboratory, P.O. Box 13436, Dayton, Ohio 45413-0436; 877-376-5474.

Cleaning Don'ts

- Never use any abrasive cleansers, such as powders or lotions containing grit, steel wool or scouring pads. These may permanently scratch the surface.
- Never use bleach or cleaning products that contain bleach, as it is too harsh for the protective coating.

With a bit of tender loving care, your stainless steel can remain stainless for years to come.

For your convenience, past issues of the *BOWA Home Advisor*, are available in the 'About Us' section of our [web site](#).

If you would like more information on any of these topics or if there are other ways we can be of service, please contact [BOWA Builders](#).

Regards.



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