

How to Clean Stainless Steel Components

Step-by-Step Cleaning Guide

1. Safety First:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, safety glasses, and a mask.
- Ensure the workspace is well-ventilated to handle any chemical cleaners.

2. Inspect the Component:

- Check for visible contamination, corrosion, or physical damage.
- Identify areas where dirt, oil, or corrosive deposits (like salt or chemicals) have accumulated.

3. Pre-Clean with Water:

- Rinse the stainless steel part with clean, lukewarm water to remove loose dirt and debris.
- Use a low-pressure hose or a non-abrasive sponge for this step.

4. Apply a Cleaning Solution:

- Use a cleaner specifically formulated for stainless steel, such as E-NOX CLEAN or Simple Green Pro HD.
- For oil and gas parts exposed to grease or oil, a degreaser like WD-40 Specialist Cleaner may be necessary.
- Dilute the cleaner if recommended and apply it evenly over the surface using a microfiber cloth or sponge.

5. Scrub Gently:

- For tough stains or deposits, use a soft nylon brush to scrub gently in the direction of the metal grain.
- Avoid steel wool or abrasive brushes, as they can damage the passive layer of the stainless steel.

6. Rinse Thoroughly:

- Rinse the part with clean water to remove all cleaning residues. Residue left behind can react with the metal over time, leading to corrosion.

7. Dry the Component:

- Wipe the part dry immediately with a clean, lint-free cloth to prevent water spots.
- For larger components, use air drying in a controlled environment.

8. Repassivate (if necessary):

- If the cleaning process disrupted the protective chromium oxide layer, use a passivating agent like CitriSurf 77 to restore the layer.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and curing.

9. Inspect and Polish:

- Perform a final inspection for cleanliness and polish the surface if needed, using a product like Sheila Shine for added luster.

10. Regular Maintenance:

- Establish a routine cleaning schedule based on the operating environment (e.g., weekly, monthly, or quarterly).
- Inspect frequently for signs of wear, corrosion, or buildup, especially in critical components like flanges and valves.

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