

FINGERPRINTING & PREVENTION

Fingerprinting

Stainless Steel & Aluminium Finishes, especially Flat (non-textured) Finishes can be susceptible to fingerprinting when placed in areas where the metal surface will be touched. Fingers carry an array of residues & dirt and when they come into contact with a metal surface, some of this residue & dirt is left behind, which can spoil the appearance of the metal surface.

There are however methods to minimise the metal surfaces susceptibility to fingerprinting and methods for effectively cleaning fingerprints from metal surfaces.

Coatings

Care must be taken when considering a coating on a metal surface to help prevent fingerprints. The results of metal coatings can vary depending on the selected metal finish. We recommend that you contact a specialised coatings company, such as the Rubin Group (www.rubin.com.au) or Priority One Coatings (www.prioritycoatings.com.au) once you have selected the desired finish, and ask their advice on the best type of coating for the selected metal/finish to help with fingerprint reduction. Please note that some coatings can dull the metal finish, so please seek advice on the likelihood of this happening with your selected coating.

For the environmentally conscious, Lanotec Australia offer a range of protective coatings and cleaning products for metal finishes. Lanotec's range of products are biodegradable, non-carcinogenic and non-toxic (www.lanotec.com.au).

Prevention

Metal Surfaces generally temper themselves to fingerprinting over time (as a result of atmospheric build up on the surface acting as a barrier) and after a few cleans, but there are some methods you can utilise to ensure the metal surface displays as little fingerprint evidence as possible.

- Wash metal surface regularly with warm, soapy water (detergents) rinse with clean, cold water and wipe dry. Citrus based cleaning products can also be effective.
- If a mild detergent or dishwashing detergent doesn't shift unsightly fingermarks, get rid of them with a bit of glass cleaner on a soft cloth. You can also use a small amount of alcohol, Methylated Spirits, acetone or mineral turpentine. Then rinse with clean, cold water and dry.
- Buffing with a soft cloth can help restore lustre to surfaces dulled by cleaning and also removes minute fingerprint residue not removed by cleaning.
- You can give longer protection to high traffic areas by lightly rubbing with olive oil or baby oil followed by a polish and shine using a soft cloth (please seek advice before considering this method for Coloured Stainless Steel & Aluminium, as oily products can darken the metal surface). Take care using oily products in areas that are likely to come in contact with clothing etc..