

Cable Rail Maintenance and Cleaning Procedures

Stainless Steel railing frames and cable infill that boast high resilience with little maintenance. The material is in and of itself corrosion resistant thanks to a thin “passive layer” of alloying elements that forms on the surface of stainless steel. While this protective layer is strong enough to withstand typical wear and tear, it's not impervious.

We want our customers to get the most out of their cable railing and encourage periodic maintenance to keep cable infill clean, beautiful, and strong for years to come. This is especially important for exterior applications, particularly those in harsh outdoor environments exposed to salt water, industrial pollutants, de-icing salt spray, atmospheric dirt, traffic film, etc.

Periodic Cleaning:

1. Spray CitriSurf® onto your frames and/or cables and wipe down using a clean, soft cloth.
2. Once all stainless surfaces have been cleaned and passivated using the CitriSurf® prepare Rust Rescue 200 by shaking or stirring the mixture.
3. Using a clean, soft cloth, sprayer, brush, or roller, apply Rust Rescue to your stainless-steel frame and/or cables. Wear gloves while handling Rust Rescue (during steps 3-4), as it can cause skin irritation for some people.
4. Wait 2-3 minutes, then wipe off excess.
5. Allow the remaining solution to dry completely. A hot air oven, hair dryer, or other drying medium may be used to accelerate this process.

Repeat this procedure on a regular basis as needed to keep your stainless steel bright and shiny. For coastal applications, we recommend this be done every 2-3 months or so, depending on necessity.

General Cleaning:

Remove finger prints and other marks generated from daily use as needed. Apply mild soap and water or glass cleaner to area using a clean cotton cloth or chamois. Rinse clean with water and dry completely.

Oil, Grease, and Residue Cleaning:

Remove oil, grease, or residue left from other cleaning materials (such as floor cleaner or polishing detergents) as soon as possible. Apply alcohol-based products (including methylated spirit and isopropyl alcohol) or other solvents (such as acetone) several times using a clean, non-scratching cotton cloth until all traces have been removed. Use Aluminum Oxide Scotch Brite if necessary. Rinse clean with water and dry completely.

Paint and Graffiti Cleaning:

Remove as needed using proprietary alkaline or solvent-based paint strippers. Apply chosen cleaning solvent several times with a clean, non-scratching cotton cloth until all traces of paint have been removed. Use Scotch Brite if necessary. Rinse clean with water and dry completely.

Salt Film and Environmental Deposit Cleaning:

Perform cleaning regularly in consideration of environmental conditions and the rate of deposit build up. Use a clean cotton cloth with CitriSurf® solution to remove contamination. Apply cleaner evenly across cables to avoid a patchy appearance. Rinse clean with water and dry completely. Follow up with the Rust Rescue application procedure detailed “Periodic Cleaning” on the previous page. Use Aluminum Oxide Scotch Brite if necessary.

Cable Tension:

Cables may become loose overtime. To tighten them a 3/16” Allen Key will be needed along with Cable gripping pliers. Insert the 3/16” Allen Key and turn clockwise to 250 LBS of tension. This can be measured with a Lexco item #90 Model B Tension Gauge. This may loosen the cables above and/or below. Follow the steps above to retighten surrounding cables if needed.

WARNINGS & TIPS

- Avoid use of the following products, as they will harm your cables:
 - Chloride-containing cleansers
 - Hypochlorite bleaches. Should accidental contact occur, rinse off immediately with copious amounts of fresh water.
 - Muriatic acid (commonly used to clean up tile/concrete installations)
 - Silver-cleaners
 - Scouring powders
 - Hard scrapers or knives
 - Non-stainless steel-based scouring pads, cleaning wool, or wire brushes
 - Any cleaning utensils that have been used on “ordinary” (carbon) steel, as this may result in iron particle “cross-contamination”