

Stainless Steel Care Advisory



Chemical Element	Type 304	Type 316
Carbon, C	<0.08%	<0.08%
Chromium, Cr	18-20.00%	16-18.00%
Nitrogen, N	<0.10%	<0.10%
Nickel, Ni	8-12.00%	10-14.00%
Molybdenum, Mo	n/a	2-3.00%
Manganese, Mn	<2.00%	<2.00%
Silicon, Si	<0.75%	<0.75%
Phosphorus, P	<0.045%	<0.045%
Sulphur, S	<0.030%	<0.030%
Iron, Fe	Balance	Balance

Both 304 and 316 grade stainless steels have excellent performance in a range of atmospheric environments. 304 is typically considered an “indoor” stainless steel, while 316, due to higher nickel content and the addition of Molybdenum, is generally regarded as the standard “marine grade stainless steel”, however in certain environments 316 can exhibit surface corrosion usually visible as brown staining.

Installation and Maintenance

Regardless of material grade, it's important to be aware the following:

During installation of your architectural railing system and construction in general, there are often various chemical cleaning agents and physical debris from cutting and drilling that can contaminate the stainless steel, thus creating a corrosive environment*. Wherever possible, protect your railing system during these activities and ensure to clean it thoroughly with fresh water and a clean cloth to extend the cosmetic lifespan of your system. This cleaning process should be repeated periodically as airborne contaminants can come in contact with your railings. The frequency of cleaning should be determined by your specific situation and is especially important when your railings are subject to marine environments, swimming pools or similar conditions where chemicals, salt and humidity factor in. Hands should be cleaned or covered with gloves prior to installation of stainless steel railings to help protect the finish from contamination from dirt and oils.

NOTE: never use chloride-based solutions, muriatic acid, or hydrochloric acids for cleaning your railing system. If an abrasive is necessary to maintain your system, ensure only to use stainless steel material such as Scotch-Brite® Stainless Steel Scrubbing Pads and be certain to work in the direction of the satin finish.

***Lavi Industries protects Pre-Fabricated Stainless Steel Posts and Tubing in shrink-wrapped PVC. We recommend removing the protection after cutting, drilling and assembly when possible to prevent surface scratches.**