



Care & Maintenance

The materials Russel uses to create his art pieces will need to be cared for in order to maintain their good looks. Use this guide to ensure your art work stays looking its best.

Stainless Steel

While stainless steel is often thought to be a maintenance-free material, we need to acknowledge that from experience both 304 and 316 may rust. For the preservation of stainless steel, regular maintenance is strongly recommended. The following provided is a guide to preserving stainless steel, grades 304 and 316.

Stainless steel does not rust as normal carbon steel does. Rather, corrosion is generally caused by contamination settling on the surface of the stainless steel. Therefore, a well-managed environment, including maintenance and inspection, is integral to the appearance and longevity of stainless steel.

Cleaning

A clean, dust and grit free cloth should be used to avoid scratching. In all cases the mildest cleaning procedure that will do the job efficiently should be used. We recommend a wash down with warm, fresh water and washing up liquid followed by a rinse of clean, warm water only, finish by wiping dry with a clean absorbent cloth. For stubborn areas of dirt, a soft brush could be used.

The level of cleaning, maintenance and inspection required depends primarily on the environment. In some exterior instances, normal rain washing is sufficient. In more polluted or corrosive environments, particularly in coastal situations and swimming pools, the surfaces require regular washing to maintain their good looks.

The type of finish will also influence the cleaning required and it is recommended that the rougher the surface, the more regular cleaning is required.

Brown staining is an indication of either an inadequate cleaning regime or an aggressive environmental atmosphere. Carbon steel brushes or carbon steel wire wool should never be used on stainless steel. It is important to always clean in the direction of the original polish lines.



Cleaning Schedule & Guide

ENVIRONMENT	TYPE 304	TYPE 316
Seafront	Grade not recommended	Monthly
Coastal (within 5km of the coast)	Grade not recommended	6-12 months
Industrial and Urban	3-6 months or as required	6-12 months or as required
Suburban Rural	Anually or as required	
Internal	As required to maintain appearance	

REQUIREMENT	METHOD	COMMENTS
Routine Cleaning (this is important in Coastal areas)	Washing up liquid and warm water. Sponge with cloth or soft brush then rinse with clean warm water and dry.	Follow polish lines.
Fingerprints	Washing up liquid and warm water, alternatively, hydrocarbon solvent.	A product we recommend is turpentine (Turps).
Stubborn spots, stains, light discolouration, water marking, light rust staining	Mild, non scratching creams and polishes. Apply with soft cloth or sponge and rinse off residues with clean water and dry. Avoid cleaning pastes with abrasive additions.	Suitable cream cleaners are available with soft calcium carbonate additions, e.g. 'Jif'. Do not use chloride solutions.
Tannin (tea) stains, rust	Use a soft brush to apply gel. Leave on the surface for 18-24hrs to dissolve contaminating particles. Rinse away residual gel with clean water.	We recommend the product - Grunt (from experience, care is needed when using this product). Please wear protective gloves and clothing (Grunt will bleach your clothing). Avoid cleaning around plants.



Wood & Mild Steel

Caring for the wooden parts of our art pieces is more straight forward. We recommend a product called boiled linseed oil. Boiled linseed oil is used to give a mellow, patinated finish to new or stripped bare wood. It is a super quality oil, similar to raw linseed, but has hot air passed through it to improve drying times.

Rub well into the wood using a lint-free cloth. After about 20 minutes, wipe off the excess oil with a clean lint-free cloth. Failure to do so will prevent penetration of future coats and leave a sticky surface. You may need to apply a few coats depending on the duration between applications. Allow for 24hr intervals in-between coats.

Boiled linseed oil can also be used to preserve the mild steel on your artwork, by protecting the surface from oxidation. Thin coatings work best, as thicker application coatings can take longer to dry and get, what is known in the trade, as 'gummy'.

For any further questions on how to care for and maintain your artwork, please contact us at jasmin@forestfusion.co.nz