



Polyfab Pro Stainless Steel Shade Sail Hardware— Care and Maintenance Instructions

Stainless steel is not a single alloy, but rather the name applies to a group of iron-based alloys containing a minimum 10.5% chromium. Other elements are added and the chromium content increased to improve the corrosion resistance and heat resisting properties, enhance mechanical properties, and/or improve fabricating characteristics. There are over 50 stainless steel grades that were originally recognized by the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI). Two of these grades are used in Polyfab Pro Hardware:

304 is the basic chromium-nickel austenitic stainless steel and has been found suitable for a wide range of applications. It is the most readily available in a variety of product forms. This grade is easy to form and fabricate with excellent resistance to corrosion.

316 offers more corrosion-resistance through the addition of molybdenum. This grade is desirable where the possibility of severe corrosion exists, such as heavy industrial atmospheres and marine environments.

Stainless steels need to be cleaned for aesthetic considerations and to preserve corrosion resistance. Stainless steel is protected from corrosion by a thin layer of chromium oxide. Oxygen from the atmosphere combines with the chromium in the stainless steel to form this passive chromium oxide film that protects from further corrosion. Any contamination of the surface by dirt, or other material, hinders this passivation process and traps corrosive agents, reducing corrosion protection. Thus, some form of routine cleaning is necessary to preserve the appearance and integrity of the surface. Stainless steels are easily cleaned by many different methods. They actually thrive with frequent cleaning, and, unlike some other materials, it is impossible to “wear out” stainless steel by excessive cleaning.

CARE & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The common rule for keeping stainless steel in its original, pristine condition is to “**clean it when it’s dirty**”. For regular cleaning start with a soft cloth and clean warm water or use ordinary soap or a mild, diluted detergent or diluted ammonia in warm water; apply with a soft cloth or synthetic sponge. Rinse well, dry with a soft cloth or drip dry. Occasionally the use of a mild household cleaner, a fine synthetic scourer or a brush with nylon bristles may be used. Regular cleaning will often remove heavy soiling and accumulated staining.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Routine, simple and gentle cleaning
- Use only the above mentioned cleaning products
- Employ repeated routine cleaning rather than an aggressive single one

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Do not use coarse abrasive powders
 - Do not use metallic scourers
 - Do not use “Silver Cleaners”
- Do not subject stainless steel to “abnormal” use

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