

Field Cleaning and Passivation of Stainless Steel

In certain environments, all stainless steel materials can develop surface discoloration. This surface discoloration can be caused by a number of factors which may include salt air, salt on roads, nearby mild steel cutting or grinding and nearby caustic or acidic cleaning operations such as treating brickwork. If surface discoloration becomes an aesthetic concern, it can be removed in the field using a variety of different methods. Our preferred method is using a citrus based cleaner called CitriSurf 77 Plus. This document details the recommended cleaning process using CitriSurf 77 Plus.

Equipment:

- CitriSurf 77 Plus (provided in FGI kit # 101229).
- Scotch-Brite pad - we recommend 3M # 8447, very fine Grade 6, maroon color, non-woven aluminum oxide pad. Any Scotch-Brite pad will work. Do not use steel wool!
- Drop cloth to protect ground surfaces from overspray is recommended, but not necessary.
- Clean rags or paper towels.
- Access to water and a hose for rinsing.
- Personal protective equipment: eye and skin protection recommended. Also, it is best to wear overalls or old clothes.

Process:

- 1) Stainless steel surface must be free of grease, oils, adhesive residues, and must be dry.
- 2) Preferred environmental conditions are: minimal wind, no direct sun or intense mid-day heat.
- 3) Protect ground beneath stainless steel with a drop cloth.
- 4) Spray CitriSurf on all surfaces of the stainless steel. Keep the surface wetted for 15 to 30 minutes depending on the level of surface discoloration.
- 5) Use the Scotch-Brite pad to rub off surface corrosion and discoloration.
- 6) Wipe off all CitriSurf with clean rags or paper towels.
- 7) Finally, rinse the stainless steel and surrounding ground thoroughly. It is important to remove all of the CitriSurf solution and dry in air immediately.
- 8) Repeat process if needed to obtain desired results.

General Recommendations:

- 1) For stainless steel products being used in new construction environments, we strongly recommend installation after all construction activity including landscaping is complete.
- 2) For stainless steel products being used in corrosive environments, periodic cleaning following the above process may be needed.
- 3) CitriSurf is a water based conductive material, so do not apply to electrical wiring or other conductive material that is connected to electrical current without first turning off all electricity!
- 4) As a guideline, surface coverage with a 22 OZ bottle of CitriSurf is approximately 90 square feet.
- 5) CitriSurf 77 Plus meets all the requirements of ASTM A967, A380, B600 and AMS 2700.
- 6) For more information and stainless steel cleaning products, please refer to the following website:
www.theruststore.com