

Care and Maintenance of Stainless Steel Woven Wire

This sheet provides general cleaning and maintenance instructions for Stainless steel mesh products. The following has been prepared as a guide only, based on market experience. If you have any concerns regarding your product, please contact your Locker Group sales representative for further information.

Overview:

When stainless steel is used in an architectural application, it may be subject to corrosion by chlorides, salts and general contamination. A thin, passive film will form when the surface is clean and smooth, and this will help to resist surface corrosion.

It is important to regularly clean the product to maintain the clean surface. The frequency of maintenance will depend on environmental factors such as pollution, salt water and rainfall. For example, the north side of a building may receive more rainfall than the other sides.

Cleaning of Stainless Steel Woven Wire:

Interior Applications

To remove any dust build up on the mesh surface, lightly brush with a cloth or feather duster. To remove dust buildup in the mesh apertures, use a brush vacuum nozzle. Using a plastic nozzle is not recommended as it can mark or damage the surface of the mesh.

To remove hand prints and finger marks, Locker Group recommends 3M HIPA Stainless Steel cleaner; available from ATA Distributors. Spray the cleaner onto a clean cotton cloth and lightly rub the mesh to remove any marks, spraying onto the mesh may cause damage to the panels. Rubbing excessively may leave shiny spots on the mesh surface.

Exterior Applications

Architectural mesh can trap dirt and other impurities in the air, which can give it a stained appearance over time. To help prevent this, wash the frames and mesh with warm water and a soft bristle brush, followed by a rinse with clean water. If there is a buildup of contamination a mix of 5% ammonia and water can be used.

If there is a severe buildup of contaminants, it may be removed by using a non-acidic, non-scratching abrasive powder such as Poligrat CSG Cleanox.

Stainless steel mesh should be cleaned once every six months with water, and more frequently if contamination builds up quickly. Areas such as under eaves or soffits where rain cannot reach may require more attention. Wash stainless steel 316 regularly with clean water to prevent contaminants settling and surface discolouration.

The following table should be used as a guide on how frequently Architectural mesh should be cleaned in external environments.

| Environment | Description | Cleaning Interval |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| Mild | More than 15km from beachfront or sheltered bay | Every 12 months |
| Moderate | 1km to 15km from beachfront or sheltered bay | Every 4-6 months |
| Marine | 500m to 1km from beachfront or 100m to 1km from a sheltered bay | Every 3 months |
| Severe Marine | Within 500m of beachfront or within 100m of a sheltered bay | Monthly |

Notes:

1. Beachfront refers to breaking surf causing airborne moisture
2. Sheltered bay refers to calm salt waters with no surf conditions
3. Fresh water lakes are not considered high risk areas
4. Heavy industrial areas can be considered high risk areas
5. The recommended maintenance intervals provided are for general guidance only. Some installations may require extra maintenance due to local environment conditions.