CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE
BLU™ 316 STAINLESS STEEL HARDWARE

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To help you care for the BLU™ product range please follow the guidelines below.

During installation and whilst building work is being carried out the hardware should be covered to protect it from dust, dirt and scratching.
Immediately after fitting and installation

- Product should be cleaned using a soft cloth and mild soapy water then dried immediately with a clean, soft cloth.

Monthly Care and Maintenance

- Clean regularly with a soft, dry cloth or duster.
- Rubbing or wiping should be carried out in the direction of the brush or polish lines of the metal, not across them.
- Product should be washed monthly using a soft cloth and mild soapy water then dried immediately with a clean, soft cloth - especially if fitted on or near the coast.
- Fingerprints can be removed by washing product as above.
- If the product has a powder coated finish such as Oil Rubbed Bronze (ORB) or Matt Smooth Black (MSB) then the above procedure should be followed with an application of good quality, non-abrasive car wax polish, gently applied in the direction of the brush or polish lines, to protect the finish.

Six Monthly Care and Maintenance

- If the product has a Satin Stainless Steel (SSS) and Polished Stainless Steel (PSS) finish then it should be cleaned at least every six months using our DR121 Stainless Steel Renovation Kit. DO NOT use DR121 on any other product or finish other than BLU products in Satin Stainless Steel (SSS) and Polished Stainless Steel (PSS) finishes.
- Lubricate any moving parts with a suitable PTFE Grease such as GLS200.
- DR121 Stainless Steel Renovation Kit and GLs200 are available from www.coastal-group.com.

Please Note

- DO NOT use oily rags or greasy cloths when wiping the product surface.
- DO NOT use bleach, abrasive cleaners, caustic or acid based cleaning materials, or detergents containing chloride, or any other strong household cleaning products.
- DO NOT use abrasive materials, files or other hard objects against the product surface.
- This product should be protected from dust and dirt during any construction work.
- PVD coatings may fingerprint so we suggest during installation of the product that you handle it with clean gloves or cloths to guard against stains or fingerprints. Fingerprints can be removed by washing product with a mild soap and water solution, then dried.
- If a softer metal such as a ring or a key marks the surface, it is possible some of this metal may have been left on the PVD coated surface. In this case use a soft cloth and mild, non-acidic cleaner to remove the soft metal deposit.

STAINLESS STEEL CARE AND MAINTENANCE TEA STAINING REMOVAL AND PREVENTION GUIDE

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WHAT IS TEA STAINING? IT ISN'T RUST!

Like all materials unless cared for properly, stainless steel will become stained or discoloured over time. Tea staining is when the surface of the stainless steel is discoloured by corrosion. It is a cosmetic issue that takes place on contaminants on the surface of the steel, it does not affect the structural integrity or lifetime of the material.

WHY DOES TEA STAINING OCCUR?

A number of key factors promote tea staining occurring such as:

1. Presence of corrosive substances

Saline air causes sea salt to form on the surface of the stainless steel and is one of the major causes of tea staining. Sea salt remains damp until a very low relative humidity meaning the hardware surface stays damp (corroding) for longer with sea salt. Industrial pollutants in the air could also make conditions even more aggressive.

2. Atmospheric conditions

In an atmosphere of high humidity combined with high temperature conditions become worse and occurrences of tea staining increase. The high humidity creates a film of moisture that dissolves the salt deposits and creates a corrosive solution on the surface of the hardware.

3. Rough hardware surface

Salt can become trapped in deep grooves or metal folds on the surface of the hardware making these areas more likely to corrode. When the surface dries the salts become concentrated, making conditions more aggressive. The deeper the groove the more trapped water (and salt) there is.

4. Using the wrong grade of stainless steel

There are many grades of stainless steel each with different chemical compositions. 304 and 316 grade are two of the most common. The main differences between 304 and 316 is the percentage of Chromium, Molybdenum and Nickel. 316 stainless steel contains higher percentages of Molybdenum and Nickel which increases its strength and corrosion resistance. Our BLU range of hardware is made from 316 Marine Grade Stainless Steel.

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THE SOLUTION TO TEA STAINING

The solution is relatively simple:

1. Use the right hardware for the application - ie. 316 Stainless Steel hardware such as our BLU range, which:

- is made from 316 Marine Grade Stainless Steel to provide the best resistance to corrosion.
- undergoes an extra finishing process to provide a unique 'super satin' surface finish - this is much smoother than many other satin finished hardware products on the market. The smoother surface means less chance of corrosive substances becoming trapped on the surface.

2. Keep the hardware cleaned and maintained:

As the name states, it is 'stain less' not 'stain free'. For optimum performance, hardware should be cleaned after fitting and at least every 6 months once in use, or bi-monthly if located in a highly corrosive environment such as on or near the coast. Our BLU DR121 is a 100% organic deep cleaner which removes contaminants and tea staining in a single operation. Regular use of the DR121 cleaner followed up by an application of the DR121 Conditioner will keep stainless steel looking like new for years to come. You can purchase the DR121 Cleaning Kit from our website www.coastal-group.com.

THE RESULT

As you can see from the image on the right, the tea stained handle as shown in the image at the start of this document looks like new again following a treatment of BLU's DR121 cleaner and conditioner.