Product and maintenance information

Our products are made from the highest quality materials and fittings. With a little care and maintenance your Toughened glass pool fence or balustrade will give you a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure.

Toughened glass

Toughened (tempered) glass is used traditionally in place of other glass products in applications requiring increased strength, thermal resistance, and reduced likelihood of injury in the event of breakage. Toughened glass is up to 6 times more impact resistant than ordinary annealed glass. When it is broken, it shatters into many tiny relatively harmless fragments which can prevent major injuries. The thermal strength of toughened glass allows it to withstand up to 250 degrees centigrade variance from ambient temperature. This type of glass is intended for use in glass facades, building entrances, sliding doors, shower enclosures, balcony balustrades, swimming pool fences, and other uses requiring superior strength and safety.

Care and maintenance of toughened glass panels

Wash with a soft abrasive free cloth or sponge with liberal amounts of water, or with a few drops of white methylated spirits per 500ml of fresh water. Alternatively a few drops of hand dishwashing detergent with 500ml of fresh warm water can be used to wash off any stubborn dirt that may be dried onto the glass. Rinse off with fresh water, and polish dry with a soft dry lint free non abrasive cloth. We cannot recommend any proprietary cleaners, but if used, please ensure that the cleaning materials and cloths are free of any abrasives as these will scratch the glass.

Stainless steel

Stainless steel enjoys a reputation for long term appearance and integrity. The material is an extremely durable alloy but its surface is readily affected by contaminants combined with moisture which if left untreated will over time lead to rusting. The word “stainless” is a misnomer, because like all metals, stainless steel may become stained or discoloured over time, impairing its aesthetic look, and longevity. Incorrect specification and fabrication or subsequent handling in coastal environments may cause stainless steel to stain or discolour, impairing the overall look. This discolouration sometimes referred to as “tea staining” has been identified in coastal applications as surface contamination, and if left untreated further contamination will eventually penetrate into the stainless steel material and cause rusting. Tea staining does not affect the structural integrity or the longevity of the material if treated in accordance with supplier’s recommendations, and it can be controlled with reasonable maintenance. It occurs most commonly within 5km of the surf or within a few hundred metres of a sheltered bay. The staining becomes progressively worse closer to a chlorine or salt source. Wind exposure capable of transporting dust and debris, as well as industrial pollution levels, and higher temperatures with high humidity, can create environments where staining may also occur 20kms from the sea. These same factors will cause even faster corrosion to alternate metals.

Appropriate grade selection

Product such as 304 grade stainless steel is often used for indoor applications, but where there are high aesthetically critical expectations for outdoor use, a number of more corrosion resistant stainless steel grades can be considered (starting from 316 which is often referred to as “marine grade” then to 2205, and further to super duplex grades and other specialized products). 316 grade is often selected as a minimum specification within 5kms of a surf coast.

Surface finishes

Keeping a pristine surface finish requires understanding, additional effort and usually additional costs. It is necessary to determine the correct grade of stainless steel at the time of initial planning for the proposed project, and maintenance recommendations will need to be followed after installation to result in problem free finish. Rough surfaces more readily promote tea staining, whereas the smoother or more highly polished, the more likely for the surface to stay cleaner. Rougher surfaces will more easily collect and retain chlorides and other contaminants, whereas surfaces that are mirror polished will best resist the build-up of contamination and will render the surface easier to maintain with cleaning.

Care and cleaning of stainless steel metal fixings and hinges

Metal fixings and hinges should be regularly (3-4 weekly) washed or hosed and wiped dry with a soft abrasive free rag. Alternatively wash with a very soft nylon brush with mild abrasive free detergent and warm water. Rinse off with fresh water and for best results polish dry with a lint free rag. Gate hinges should be lubricated with a 3 in 1 oil on a regular basis. Check the gate hinges and fittings once per year to ensure that the screws are tight.

If cleaning tiled surfaces or treating the pool water with acids or other caustic cleaners or additives, in proximity to the stainless steel fixings, it is recommended that the stainless steel be immediately hosed off with fresh water to prevent any contamination from airborne caustic particles.