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Mirror Polished Stainless Steel Doors and Frames

Your Stiles mirror-polished stainless steel doors and frames have been delivered without any type of factory-applied protective coating such as lacquer, wax, or other surface protection.

Though virtually maintenance-free, areas of the door surfaces that come into human contact will produce fingerprints due to salts and oils in skin. Routine maintenance, including cleaning and polishing are required in order to maintain the brilliance and rich luster of the mirror-polished surfaces.

■ Unpacking and Storage

It is recommended that doors and frames be carefully unpacked on-site just prior to installation, and placed in a vertical position. When securing or transporting doors and frames, do NOT allow ropes, straps, or cords to come into direct contact with the mirror-polished surfaces -- scratching may occur. NOTE: Stainless steel is an extremely hard material but CAN be scratched. Doors and frames should be stored in a clean, dry area, free from dirt and debris.

■ Handling and Installation

Installers should take care to avoid surface scratching by removing all rings, watches, or other jewelry items prior to handling or installing doors. Disposable latex gloves are recommended during handling and installation.

If areas of the doors or frames require masking, 3M Blue Masking Tape is recommended. Tape should not be allowed to remain on stainless surfaces over 5 days. Upon removal of tape, denatured alcohol or MEK (on a microfiber towel) may be used to remove any adhesive residue. Stainless surfaces should be protected when drilling or tapping any adjacent ferrous metals, as rust or discoloration may occur.

■ Cleaning and Polishing

After final factory-polishing, doors and frames are custom packaged and shipped from the factory on specifically engineered pallets or crates. During shipping, the soft bubble-wrap packing may leave a minute amount of residue on the doors and frames. This necessitates on-site cleaning and polishing after installation. Most alloys of stainless steel are not highly reactive to chemicals. However, caution must be exercised when using cleansers, polishes, and waxes on stainless steel products.

PRODUCTS TO AVOID

Any cleaning and polishing products that are abrasive or contain harsh chemicals such as ammonia or chlorine should be avoided. These include:

- Brasso, Semichrome, or any other commercially available metal polishes or creams
- Windex, Formula 409, and all ammonia-based products (produces streaks)
- Degreasing agents, powdered cleansers, paint thinners, or harsh solvents
- Furniture polish or paste waxes

Any cleaning towels that are abrasive must be avoided. These include:

- Paper towels of ANY kind
- Commercial Terrycloth, linen, or cotton rags / towels (no matter how "soft" they feel to the touch)
- Avoid squeegees, sponges, or any type of scouring pad
- Avoid razor blades, scrapers, putty knives, etc.

■ Recommended Cleaning Products

The following products are recommended for the cleaning of stainless steel doors and frames:



Cleaner

Sprayway® brand glass cleaner may be used to clean stainless doors and frames when utilized in conjunction with a soft microfiber cleaning cloth. All dust and debris should be blown (not wiped) from stainless surfaces prior to cleaning.

Liberaly apply Sprayway® glass cleaner to the entire surface of the microfiber cloth (both sides), and gently wipe over the stainless surfaces. Immediately follow (dry) with a microfiber cloth.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES! Unlike other glass cleaners, Sprayway® contains no harsh chemicals or ammonia, and is "streak-free." It is available at professional glass shops, as well as many Home Depot stores nationwide.

Microfiber Cleaning Towels

Utilize ONLY microfiber towels when cleaning or polishing stainless doors and frames. Be sure to remove the paper label from each towel prior to use to avoid scratching.

Microfiber towels may be washed after use, but chemicals in detergent may produce streaks.

Microfiber towels are available nationwide at Ace Hardware stores, as well as most Costco stores (best price). Towels are also available at most auto detailing outlets.



■ Recommended Polishing Products

The following products are recommended for periodic polishing of mirror-polished stainless doors and frames:



Polish

3M brand Ultrafine SE polishing compound (#06068) is recommended for polishing of mirror-finished stainless surfaces. It will remove hairline scratches and light scuffs, and is applied to a clean microfiber towel folded into a small (4" X 4") square. Apply polish in a gentle circular motion, much the same as applying automotive wax. Polish only small areas at a time -- approx. 2' x 2'. Immediately remove polish residue with a clean microfiber towel with a light buffing motion. Polish can also be utilized with 3M foam pads in conjunction with a buffing machine. After machine buffing, hand polishing is recommended as a final step.

Polish is available at most automotive paint and finish distributors nationwide.

■ Recommended Protective Products

The following products are recommended for periodic application (after polishing) of stainless doors and frames:



Liquid Wax

After polishing, it is recommended that Meguiar's X-Press liquid wax be applied in the same manner as the polish. This will help reduce oxidation (darkening), and will keep fingerprints to a minimum.

Periodic polishing and waxing is recommended for heavy traffic areas.

Meguiar's products are available at most automotive paint and finish distributors nationwide.

Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish

Although Sprayway® brand Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish is HIGHLY recommended for textured stainless steel finishes, it contains oils designed to repel fingerprints. These oils have a tendency to show up as streaks on mirror-polished surfaces, even after rigorous polishing.

In addition, the oils dissipate fairly quickly, requiring frequent re-application. The Meguiar's liquid wax (above) is a far better protective barrier against fingerprints, and leaves no streaks whatsoever. Meguiar's wax offers far better longevity in acting as a protective barrier as well as repelling fingerprints.



■ Other Important Information

Refinishing

After years of heavy use, neglect, or damage (i.e. scratches, rub marks, etc.), you may wish to have your doors and frames re-polished by a professional. Consult your local yellow pages directory under "Metal Finishing" or "Metal Refinishing." Many local metal plating shops are also able to provide referrals.

Lacquering

If a protective lacquer is desired to reduce maintenance (fingerprints), be aware that the brilliance of the mirror-polished finish will be slightly reduced (no matter how good the quality of the lacquer).

Consult a professional finisher that has experience in lacquering metals.

Our Care & Maintenance Guides are prepared as tools designed to inform our customers of techniques that relate to the post-delivery care of our products. It is our goal to help you make informed decisions when designing, specifying, ordering, installing, or maintaining Stiles products.

Stiles makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of information obtained from outside sources. Whenever possible, links will be provided for additional information, and sources cited.