



What is Tea Staining?

Tea Staining is a brown surface stain on stainless steel. It isn't actually rust; it is usually caused by salt air or similar atmospheric conditions. The good news is that a tea stain isn't actually a stain and doesn't affect the structural integrity of your stainless steel surface.

Cleaning Tea Staining

Stainless steel keeps best when it is cleaned with soap, water or mild cleaners. To combat tea staining, start with a bleach-free, chalk-based cream cleanser. Put it on a damp, soft cloth and clean gently. This should be enough. If it isn't the next step is a commercial stainless steel cleaner.

Always handle commercial stainless steel cleanser with care because they are often formulated with dangerous chemicals such as sulfonic, oxalic or phosphoric acids. After using any of these on a surface it is important to rebalance the PH of the stainless steel with a sodium bicarbonate or 1% ammonia solution. Then, simply rinse the surface with clean water and gently wipe it dry.

If this doesn't do the job you can use a synthetic pad and rub the stain out. Always rub in the direction of the grain because the pads are abrasive and can remove microscopic particles. This will change the dynamics and characteristics of your surface.