

Selecting Stainless Steel

Durability

All stainless steel is extremely durable, and Grade 316 is much more resistant to corrosion than mild steel, but it is not self-cleaning and will require regular maintenance to keep it at its best. Cleaning intervals will depend on location and the local environment. They may be from four times a year in rural, suburban or residential areas where the stainless steel is washed by rain, and up to weekly where it isn't washed by rain and is in industrial areas or close to the sea. More information about the cleaning products and cloths in our range may be found in our Pro-Railing catalogue. Please go to: <https://prorailing.co.uk/>

Your Location

Your location may well have a bearing on which grade and finish you need on your new stainless steel system. In coastal and urban areas there are contaminants which can damage the surfaces of all steels.

The most common grades of stainless steel used for balustrades and railings are as follows:

Grade 304 This grade is most often used for work which is indoors.
Grade 316 Grade 316 is most often used for external work

Although their appearance is the same, they perform differently depending on their location. The reason for this is that they have different chemical compositions.

Grade 304 Approximate Composition – 18% Cr 8% Ni (exact composition ranges vary between EN and ASTM standards).

Grade 316 Approximate Composition – 16% Cr 10% Ni 2% Mo (exact composition ranges vary between EN and ASTM standards). The Mo (molybdenum) contained in this grade enhances corrosion resistance.

Surface Finishes

We offer two finishes. The most popular finish we sell is Satin, with the option of a Mirror finish for use in some areas or if a highly polished surface is required.

Satin

Our most popular and the most widely used is our Satin finish which is a 320 grit finish. The grit refers to the type of sanding belt used.

Mirror

If you are installing stainless steel products in areas of heavy pollution, or if you are putting a balustrade around a swimming pool, or are within 20 miles of the coast, then

we recommend a Mirror finish as this will be more appropriate. Mirror finish products are the least prone to surface staining. We have an increasingly wide range of mirror finish parts which you can view at: <https://www.fhbrundle.co.uk/search?query=Mirror+finish>



Tips

- Try to avoid all contact with mild steel which may cause contamination.
- Also avoid contact with salt or bleach, if possible, as these can cause pitting over time. Wash off immediately if contact occurs.
- Perform regular cleaning for best results.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions which are not covered here, please check our FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), or email us at: info@liveconfigurator.co.uk.

Contact Us

If you prefer to speak to someone in person, we have branches around the UK. Please contact your nearest branch and speak to one of our team, who will be happy to help in any way. If you have questions specific to your site sending us photos can be very useful.

Please contact one of our branches to place an order or ask a question.

Further information:

British Stainless Steel Association

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