



Care Instructions for Nu-Line Stainless Steel Fenders

With proper care, your stainless steel fenders will remain bright and smooth for long periods of time.

Stainless steel will rust or corrode under certain conditions, especially when contaminants such as salty water, acid splashes, or steel particles and moisture are present. During Canadian winters, the combination of chlorides (salt) and sand on the roads can trap salt against the surface of the fender and create surface rust and pitting. **Frequent washing** is great protection against damage to stainless steel surfaces.

Wash your stainless steel fenders with water or mild automotive car wash soap. Dry them with a micro fiber towel or a soft cotton towel (Double check the towel has nothing on it that will scratch the fender). When a scratch does happen, you can re-polish that spot with an automotive stainless steel polish.

DO NOT use any type of abrasive cleaner on stainless steel fenders. This will scratch the fender. **DO NOT** use steel wool, a steel wire brush, or a buffing wheel which has been used on steel or other metals.

In order to achieve maximum corrosion resistance and aesthetic appeal, the surface of the stainless steel fender must be kept clean. **Frequent washing** will protect your fenders and is required for your stainless steel fenders to remain bright and smooth for as long as you own them.

What is Stainless Steel?

In 1913, English metallurgist Harry Brearly, working on a project to improve rifle barrels, accidentally discovered that adding chromium to low carbon steel gives it stain resistance. In addition to iron, carbon, and chromium, modern stainless steel may also contain other elements, such as nickel, niobium, molybdenum, and titanium. It is the addition of a minimum of 12% chromium to the steel that makes it resist rust, or stain 'less' than other types of steel. The chromium in the steel combines with oxygen in the atmosphere to form a thin, invisible layer of chrome-containing oxide, called the passive film. If the metal is cut or scratched and the passive film is disrupted, more oxide will quickly form and recover the exposed surface, protecting it from oxidative corrosion. The passive film requires oxygen to self-repair, so stainless steels have poor corrosion resistance in low-oxygen and poor circulation environments.

Remember that in Canada and the North Eastern States, there are very strong chlorides used to melt snow and ice and they can become trapped on the surface of the steel by dirt and sand. The passive film is deprived of oxygen and cannot self-repair.