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# Maintenance and Cleaning

## Best Practices for Your Stainless Steel Lab Equipment

21750 Coolidge Highway • Oak Park, MI 48237 USA • 1-800-362-8491 • +1 248-291-2040 • Email: info@mopec.com

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# INTRODUCTION

You've invested significant time and money in finding the equipment that will provide the safest, most ergonomic work environment for your lab. In order to ensure you get the greatest return on your investment, it is important that Mopec's equipment is properly maintained. Without proper care, deterioration can accelerate on high quality materials, causing performance issues and impeding productivity.

In this guide, we offer valuable maintenance and cleaning tips for your stainless steel lab equipment. By following these maintenance tips, you can help extend the life of your equipment and ensure that it continues to meet the safety and performance standards that your lab requires.

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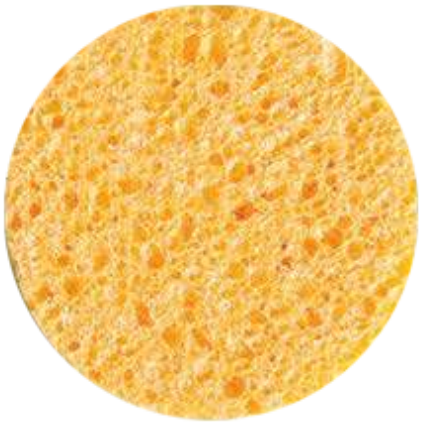
# Use non-abrasive cleaning materials



**NEVER use wire brushes, Brillo Pads, steel wool or abrasive cleaners like Ajax or Comet**

Depending on the surface finish of your stainless steel, abrasive cleaners can cause scratching. Duller finishes might not show scratching as much as mirror or highly-polished finishes.

**Preserve your equipment by using Mopec cleaning products and non-abrasive sponges or pads**

**Mopec's cleaners** are recommended to safely disinfect and polish your equipment without damage to your stainless steel surface. Foam sponges are safe for surfaces. For a deeper clean, Mopec recommends using a non-scratch scouring pad. Follow the direction of the grain when scouring stainless steel to prevent surface scratches. If you are unsure of the direction of the grain, practice on a hidden spot on the equipment. If scratches appear, you are not cleaning with the grain.

# Avoid using harsh cleaners

## Do not use cleaning products containing chlorine

While it may be second nature to bleach everything, chlorine should never be used on stainless steel equipment. Bleach, even when mixed with water, causes staining and pitting on stainless steel surfaces. Surface damage from chlorine use voids the manufacturer's warranty. If you are in need of a deep cleaning solution, Mopec recommends **AC-Peroxy**. This peroxide-based disinfectant and deodorizer safely cleans without residue buildup and promotes a shiny finish.

## Simple cleaning methods can remove fingerprints

Fingerprints are the most common contaminant that results from normal use. The oil and sweat that the hands naturally produce causes a smudging effect that transfers fingerprints onto stainless steel surfaces. The smudges only affect appearance and will not cause any surface damage. Fingerprints can be easily removed with **Mopec's Stainless Steel Cleaning and Polishing Wipes**, which can restore a brilliant shine to laboratory equipment.

# Keep your stainless surface clean and rinsed

**Keep surfaces free of grime, tissue and particulates**

This can be accomplished by using surface cleaner after each use. For quick and effective cleaning, we recommend **Mopec's PathWipes**. This powerful disinfectant removes blood and tissue with ease.

**Rinse the surface following the use of disinfectants**

Disinfecting a work area is necessary to maintain safety and cleanliness standards in pathology and other medical laboratories. If equipment is not rinsed properly after using cleaning agents, residue becomes visible once the agent dries. Residue can appear as a white or gray coating, contain light lines, or have a grainy feel when touched. Accumulation will degrade the appearance and integrity of the stainless steel surface and possibly lead to rust. All of **Mopec's cleaning products** are safe to use on stainless steel. Mopec offers a variety of disinfecting sprays, wipes and soaking solutions.

# Protect your stainless steel with a polish

**Use a polish on all your stainless steel products**

Before any product leaves Mopec, it is finished with **Mopec's Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish**. This powerful, non-corrosive cleaning formula will shine and deodorize your stainless steel equipment in one step. Keep your equipment like new by applying polish after disinfecting.

**If cleaners dry on your stainless steel surface, use polish and non-abrasive cleaners to remove stains**

The chemicals in many soap-based cleaners can cause staining, which is why we highly recommend rinsing stainless steel surfaces after cleaning.  Rinse with clean water and dry with a cloth towel before polishing equipment. **Mopec's Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish** has the ability to remove blood and tissue from the surface while promoting surface shine.

# Remove spotting and staining

### Do not assume spotting and staining came from your cleaner

If spotting and staining occurs and you've followed all of the above suggestions, it may not be the products you are using. Water, especially hard water, can leave spotting, staining and mineral deposits, which lead to whitish-colored spots and streaks. Prevent hard water stains by towel-drying. If hard water stains persist, use **Mopec's Stainless Steel Cleaning and Polishing Wipes** for a streak-free finish that promotes equipment shine.

# Avoid potentially corrosive practices

## Take proper precautions when using decalcifying solution

Decalcifying solutions are very harsh, and even its fumes can cause staining on stainless steel. You may also see brown rust rings or a milky white residue form on your stainless steel finish in the spots where the decalcifying solution was not properly rinsed. To avoid staining, store decalcifying containers away from stainless steel. Be sure to clean and rinse your station after each use of decalcifying solution. Always finish stainless steel equipment with a **Mopec polish** after using decalcifying solutions.

## Avoid practices that can lead to rust formation

Rust can and will form on stainless steel if it is not properly maintained. The most common cause of rust is from using metal racks that are not made of stainless steel. This is referred to as “transfer rust.” Residue from the use of cleaners and disinfectants can also lead to rust areas when not properly rinsed. Hard to clean areas may require additional soak time. Remember to come back and wipe the area with clean water and dry with a soft cloth towel.

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# ABOUT MOPEC

Mopec is committed to designing and manufacturing equipment and accessories to enhance your facility's safety, flexibility and productivity. Our technical prowess stems from a commitment to quality craftsmanship and high-touch service. Mopec is recognized globally for giving clients an unrivaled experience including design, manufacturing, installation and post-sales support. The industries we serve include anatomy labs, anatomic pathology, medical examiner/morgue and necropsy.

## Learn more about Mopec

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**Mopec Anatomic Pathology Brochure**


**Mopec Medical Examiner/ Morgue Brochure**


**Mopec Necropsy Brochure**


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