



## **PRODUCT CARE:**

Steel Solutions USA modular metal casework is the most well built system furniture on the market. With the proper care of your casework furniture, you can expect to have many years of reliable service. The following information is designed to help you maintain and protect the appearance of your Steel Solutions USA casework. Please refer to the information below regarding the recommended care and cleaning procedures as it relates to the surface you are cleaning.

### **POWDER COATED STEEL SURFACES:**

Our steel casework is protected by one of the newest paint application methods in the industry. Powder coated steel is a chemical resistant, baked coating that is able to withstand a number of chemicals. However, in order to prolong the “like new” appearance of your casework installation, it is necessary to regularly clean all exposed surfaces.

#### *Regular cleaning*

Powder coated steel casework needs to be cleaned regularly to remove surface contaminants. This also helps to safeguard against unwanted chemical reactions. The best method for cleaning is to use glass cleaner with a soft cloth. Be sure that this cleaner is compatible with other chemicals that may be in use around the area you are cleaning as ammonia based products should never be mixed with products containing bleach.

#### **Caution:**

- **Do not** use steel wool or abrasive cleaners for cleaning. This may damage the surface(s) of your cabinet(s).
- **Do not** expose powder coated surfaces to acids which may cause staining or damage to the exposed surface(s).

#### **Chemicals to Avoid:**

- MEK (Methyl Ethyl Keytone), Acetone, or other strong solvents
- Chlorine-based cleaners
- Sulfur-based cleaners

### **STAINLESS STEEL SURFACES:**

While stainless steel is an extremely durable surface, proper maintenance will help extend the life of your product. Stainless steel has a naturally occurring process in which oxygen from the atmosphere combines with the chromium in the stainless steel to form a protective film of chromium oxide. Contaminates left on the surface may interfere with this process, reducing the corrosion protection. Therefore, regular cleaning helps to protect the corrosion resistance stainless steel is known for and preserves the appearance people have come to appreciate.

### *Regular cleaning*

Stainless steel needs to be cleaned regularly to remove dust, dirt, and contaminants. The best method for cleaning is to use warm water with a soft cloth, towel dry to avoid water spotting. Gentle, non-abrasive detergents such as soap may be used as necessary. Rinse surfaces thoroughly to remove soap before drying with a soft cloth.

Fingerprints are probably the most common contaminate to remove and can be effectively removed by using glass cleaner. Follow cleaning with a warm water rinse.

### **Caution:**

- **Do not** use carbon steel brushes or steel wool for cleaning. This may leave particles embedded in the surface(s) which may lead to rusting.
- **Do not** expose stainless steel surfaces to acids which may cause staining or damage to the exposed surface(s).
- Abrasive pads and other carbon steel products may cause pitting and/or corrosion if left on stainless steel surface(s).

### **HPL SURFACES:**

HPL is a high quality surface that is superior to LPL melamine surfaces due to the manufacturing process and the use of multiple layers of resin-treated paper. You can expect HPL to last three to five times longer than LPL under similar conditions. You can maximize the use and enjoyment of your HPL surfaces by regularly cleaning and maintaining your work area.

### *Regular cleaning*

For regular daily cleaning of HPL surfaces, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. This should be suitable for most situations.

### *Difficult stains*

Difficult stains such as coffee or tea may require a mild household cleaner and a soft brush. Repeat as necessary to fully remove the stain. If a stain persists, use a paste of baking soda and water and apply with a soft bristle brush. Light pressure for 10 to 20 strokes should remove most stains. Avoid excessive scrubbing as even mild abrasives could eventually damage the finish.

### **Caution:**

- **Avoid** using acidic or abrasive cleaners as they can damage HPL surfaces
- **Do not** use steel wool or other abrasive pads to clean HPL surfaces as they will scratch the finish of your cabinets. Do not store damp steel wool on HPL surfaces. They are prone to rust and may leave rust stains on your laminate surface(s).
- **Never** place hot pots or pans on unprotected HPL surfaces.
- **Do not** use drain cleaners, oven cleaners, rust removers, or toilet bowl cleaners on your HPL surface(s). They can cause permanent damage. If a spill occurs, wipe up immediately, clean the surface with soap and water, and rinse several times.
- Certain dyes can cause permanent stains. Should a spill occur, wipe up immediately and clean with an all-purpose cleaner.

**Recommended Cleaners:**

- Windex®
- Glass Plus®
- Lysol® Brand Disinfectant
- Dawn®
- Pledge®
- Mr. Clean®
- Formula 409®

**THERMOFOIL SURFACES:**

Thermofoil surfaces have fewer seams making it more resistant to moisture than laminates. However, care should be taken to remove dirt and moisture from its surface to maintain the “like new” appearance.

*Regular cleaning*

For regular daily cleaning of Thermofoil surfaces, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent. This should be suitable for most situations.

**Caution:**

- **Do not** use acidic or abrasive cleaners as they can damage Thermofoil surfaces.
- **Do not** use steel wool or other abrasive pads to clean surfaces as they will scratch the finish of your cabinets. Do not store damp steel wool on surfaces. They are prone to rust and may leave rust stains on your thermofoil surface(s).
- **Do not** use drain cleaners, oven cleaners, rust removers, or toilet bowl cleaners on your thermofoil surfaces. They can cause permanent damage. If a spill occurs, wipe up immediately, clean the surface with soap and water, and rinse several times.
- Certain dyes can cause permanent stains. Should a spill occur, wipe up immediately and clean with an all-purpose cleaner.

**Recommended Cleaners:**

- Windex®
- Glass Plus®
- Lysol® Brand Disinfectant
- Dawn®
- Pledge®
- Mr. Clean®
- Formula 409®

**References:**

1. Wilsonart® Laminates Care & Maintenance
2. Specialty Steel Industry of North America, Care and Cleaning of Stainless Steel ([www.ssina.com](http://www.ssina.com))