

Novalinea® Linear Drain Care Instructions

Your linear drain is made from 304 Stainless Steel, which is the most popular grade due to its excellent corrosion resistance and ease of manufacture. All stainless steel contains chromium which is responsible for its unique corrosion resistance properties. The chromium reacts with oxygen in the environment to form a thin oxide layer on the surface of the metal. This protective layer prevents any more oxygen from reacting with the iron present in the material and forming rust. Stainless steel is considered to be self-healing because even if the surface is scraped or damaged, a new oxide layer forms almost immediately and continues protecting the material.

Although stainless steels are very resistant to rust, this does not mean that they are impervious to it. Exposure to certain contaminants and debris can compromise the protective properties of the material. Regular cleaning is essential for maintaining corrosion resistance and to preserving the look of your drain. Here are some general care instructions and things to be aware of.

- Clean the drain at least once a week. A mild soap and a nylon kitchen brush works well.
- Iron and other minerals in the water can build up over time and produce a brown film that is hard to remove and looks like rust. Soap residue can also contribute to discoloration.
- Always apply stainless steel cleaner/polish with a nonabrasive cloth or sponge, working with, not across the grain.
- Do not use steel wool, wire brushes or abrasive sponge pads. The iron particles that are left behind can oxidize and can leave rust stains on your drain channel. Use only non-scratch cleaning pads.
- Avoid exposure to products containing chlorides. This includes bleach and many kinds of bathroom cleaner, as well as salts. If exposed, rinse the surface immediately to prevent corrosion and surface pitting. The same precautions should be taken with acids, lye, drain cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner.
- Be aware that Muratic acid (hydrochloric Acid) is often used by tile installers for clean up after grouting. This can be very damaging to your linear drain.
- Some WD40 or car wax may be applied to the drain channel with a soft cloth. It will protect the surface of the steel from deposits and make cleaning easier.
- Avoid trapping moisture between the drain and another object - placing rubber mats, metal cans of soap or cleaners.

Any discoloration or corrosion should be removed as soon as possible, to avoid more serious surface pitting. Usually, the product can be restored to its original condition, and continued regular cleaning will prevent further problems. Most discoloration in the drain channel can be removed with a mild cleanser (Ajax, Bon Ami, etc.) or stainless steel cleaner (Revere Ware Stainless Steel Cleaner, Goddard's Stainless Steel Cleaner, etc.) and a Scotchbrite pad. In more difficult cases citric acid based cleaners may be used. The surface should then be thoroughly rinsed with clear water. With proper maintenance, stainless steel will maintain its luster and appearance indefinitely.