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Rusting on stainless steel is an issue that we are very familiar with here at the Appliance Doctor. No matter what the product and/or make of the product may be, rusting is a problem that is seen all the time.

Although many of us may attribute these rust issues to the machines location or outside factors, the main dilemma can be blamed on the products that you are using to clean your machines. Certain cleaners, especially those containing bleach, are harmful to your machine and its beautiful dÃ©cor. In fact, although many cleaners state on the bottle that they can be used on stainless steel, this is not true.

Chlorine, which is found in most of your household cleaning products, forms a chemical reaction when used on stainless steel. The product is actually causing oxidation on your metal surface which is then creating that stubborn rust that you can't get rid of.

Our suggestion to you would be to use a little soap and water and to purchase a stainless steel polish. Stainless steel polishes are made from Mineral Oil, making them light yet effective. A gentle cleaning with the soap and water, followed by a smooth polish will leave your appliance shiny, clean, and more importantly, rust free!

5 STAINLESS STEEL MISTAKES NOT TO MAKE.

1. Do not use abrasive cleaners that will scratch the surface- Depending on the surface finish of your stainless steel, abrasive cleaners can cause scratching. Duller finishes probably won't show scratching as much as mirror or highly polished finishes. When in doubt, test in a hidden spot, and also work from the least risky type of cleaning, (ie water) to the heavy duty stuff.

2. Do not forget to rinse-Gritty or dirty water, or residue from cleaning solutions left on a stainless steel surface can stain or damage the finish.

3. Do not use cleaners containing chlorine.-While it may be second nature to bleach everything, stainless steel and chlorine don't mix. Stay away from the bleach when you clean stainless steel.

4. Do not use steel wool or steel brushes-These products leave little particles in the surface of the steel and inevitably these particles begin rusting and staining the surface of the steel. They also can excessively scratch the surface of your stainless steel.

5. Do not assume it's the cleaner.-If you do have some spotting or staining, and you've followed all the rules, it may not be the cleaner. Water, especially hard water, can leave spotting and staining on stainless steel surfaces. Towel dry after rinsing can end the problem.

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