

Rail Maintenance

A regular maintenance program is required to maintain the appearance and function of your S.R.Smith rails.

Cleaning

The maintenance program includes thorough cleaning of all rail components. Insufficient cleaning leads to a buildup of chlorides and other aggressive chemicals that exceed the corrosion resistance of the stainless steel. The required frequency of the cleaning depends upon the environment where the rails are installed. Table 1 below is a guideline for recommended cleaning intervals for different types of pool environments. The table is a recommendation and actual required cleaning intervals should be adjusted as required for the particular environment where the rails are installed.

Harsh Environments

Some pool environments are more corrosive to metal equipment than others. Environments that are considered highly corrosive include: indoor pools, salt pools, and outdoor pools located near coastal regions.

In indoor pool environments, chlorides and other chemicals are continually being deposited onto the surfaces of the rails. The humidity in the air of indoor pools is water vapor containing chloride. Chlorides and other chemicals are deposited on the surfaces of the rails through a cycle of condensation and evaporation. In an indoor pool environment, rails should be rinsed thoroughly with fresh water on a daily basis.

More thorough cleaning with mild soap (non-chlorinated, PH neutral, dishwashing soap) and warm water is recommended on a weekly basis.

Chlorides from dissolved salts will break down the passive (protective) layer of stainless steels. Rails installed on salt water pools or located in coastal regions should be rinsed daily with fresh water. More thorough

cleaning with soap and warm water is recommended on a weekly basis.

Mild to Moderate Environments

Outdoor, non-salt pools that are not located in coastal regions are considered mild to moderately corrosive environments. In mild to moderately corrosive environments, it is recommended that the rails be thoroughly rinsed with fresh water daily. Thorough washing with soap and water may be done once or twice a month depending upon the particular environment. The rails should be cleaned before there is a noticeable buildup of chemical deposits or corrosive buildup.

Cleaning Process

Daily Cleaning:

- Thoroughly rinse all rail surfaces with fresh water.

Weekly Cleaning:

- Wash all rail surfaces with warm fresh water containing mild soap.
- Use a soft cloth along with the cleaning solution to wipe down rail surfaces.
- In some cases, it may be necessary to use a soft nylon brush to remove rust or staining.
- After all surfaces have been wiped down with the cleaning solution, thoroughly rinse the entire rail with fresh water.
- A quality automotive wax may be applied to help maintain the finish of the rails between scheduled cleanings.
- Using a cleaner such as Bon Ami® to clean the rail surfaces will help to minimize corrosion and maintain the appearance of the rail.

Do not use: chloride containing cleaners on metal components, abrasive cleaners, or steel wool. All of these things can cause damage to the rail and promote further corrosion.

Table 1: Guideline for Recommended Cleaning Intervals

POOL ENVIRONMENT	CHLORINATION	CORROSION FACTOR	CLEANING & MAINTENANCE	FREQUENCY
Outdoor pools, in-land	Chlorine	Mild/Moderate	Rinse with fresh water	Daily
			Wash with soap and water	Monthly
Outdoor pools, in-land	Salt	Moderate	Rinse with fresh water	Daily
			Wash with soap and water	Weekly
			Remove any visible signs of rust or staining with a nylon brush	Monthly
Outdoor pools, coastal regions	Chlorine or Salt	Severe	Rinse with fresh water	Daily
			Wash with soap and water	Weekly
			Remove any visible signs of rust or staining with a nylon brush	Monthly
Indoor pools, all regions	Chlorine or Salt	Severe	Rinse with fresh water	Daily
			Wash with soap and water	Weekly
			Remove any visible signs of rust or staining with a nylon brush	Monthly