Not all Stainless Steel is the same

Magica rust remover is a great way to remove rust stains from most types of stainless steel, however there are some types of stainless steel that can be damaged by Magica, or any other type of acid-based rust stain remover. This why we always recommend as stated on the bottle "test first in an inconspicuous spot for suitability and color fastness". Most marine hardware on boats is either 316 or 304 stainless and Magica works great for removing rust stains on this type stainless of hardware.

However not all stainless steels are created equal. The metallurgists among us will point out that there are 5 different categories of stainless steel: martensitic, ferritic, austenitic, duplex (ferritic-austenitic), and precipitation-hardening stainless steels.

Most major appliances are made of 304 stainless steel or 430 (ferritic) stainless steel. Even within these two different categories there are different grades, gauges, and finishes. Moreover, some manufacturers will use different types of stainless steel on the same appliances. For example, a dishwasher tub might have different stainless steel than the dishwasher door. Some stainless steel has superior fabrication characteristics, while others work better in specific temperature ranges, or is more corrosion resistant. Some of these types of stainless steel can be discolored by acid-based rust stain removers, so uses caution and test a small area first.

There are some cleaning processes for this problem that can be found on the internet here is one. However, we have not done any testing of this formula or procedure.

How do you remove acid etching from stainless steel?
- Add 2 tbsp. of baking soda to 2 tbsp. of water in a bowl. Mix to create a paste.
- Use a cloth to rub the paste into the muriatic acid stain. Allow the mixture to sit on the stain for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Wet a soft cloth and wipe away the mixture. Repeat as needed to remove stain.

Updated May 2023