High-touch hospitality *metal finishes*

No independent wear data exists for most finishes under hotel handling. Choose by how often hands land, name the cleaning product in the handover manual, and know the repair route in advance.

AT A GLANCE

Finish	Fingerprints and marks	Wear and scratches	If it is damaged
Brushed or satin stainless (J or K, Ra 0.5 µm or less)	May show finger marks at first; less evident after the first few cleans (Euro Inox).	Light scratches can be blended along the grain with a nylon pad (BSSA).	Specialists can re-polish or electropolish on site (BSSA).
Mill 2B, and bead-blasted thin sheet	2B shows marks clearly: Euro Inox says avoid it where touched. Bead-blasted thin sheet: marks hard to remove.	Not covered by the sources read.	As brushed stainless; best kept off touched parts.
Mirror polish, bright annealed (2P, 2R)	Reflective, so marks show (our reading). Euro Inox: in luxury lift cars only with expert cleaning.	Damage is difficult to repair (Euro Inox). 2R needs care to avoid scratching.	Specialist re-polish.
Patterned or rolled-on textures (2M, 2F)	Not described for fingerprints. Rolled-on bead-blast mill finishes clean well indoors (Euro Inox).	Tend to hide scratches and knocks; Euro Inox names lift cages.	Not described. Ask the finisher.
PVD colour on stainless	Not covered by a source read.	Hard, thin film (0.2 to 2.0 µm). Aggressive attack damages it. No hotel-handling data.	No repair on site: replace the part.
Lacquered brass or bronze	Fingers carry moisture, salts and oils (CCI); lacquer shields the metal while it lasts.	A thin film that can wear or fail where handled. No test data found.	Strip and re-lacquer, by a specialist.
Living (unlacquered) brass, bronze, copper	Darkens and varies with handling, by design.	Polishing is abrasive: it removes tarnish and some metal (CCI).	Re-polish by the finisher; repeated polishing loses detail.

Sources: BSSA SSAS 7.20 (2001); Euro Inox Vols. 1 (2005) and 15 (2011); CCI Notes 9/3 (2007); the studio's PVD and lacquer sheets. No independent wear-test data was found for any finish. 'Not covered' means the sources are silent, not that the finish is safe.



From routine clean to last resort. Dashed boxes: no route sourced. Original schematic by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

FINISH AND HANDLING CLASS

[Door pulls, lift handrails and call panels]: [stainless steel 1.4301, brushed 2J to EN 10088-2, Ra not more than 0.5 µm, grain vertical], approved against sample [ref. __]. Handling class [all day]. The finisher is to confirm in writing that the finish and any coating suit [daily handling and the cleaning product named in the manual], and to supply test reports for any wear or corrosion claim [reports attached].

CLEANING REGIME

The operation and maintenance manual is to name, for each finish above, the cleaning product, tool and frequency [ ]; the products and tools not to be used [chloride bleach, hydrochloric acid, steel wool, abrasive or ammonia polishes]; and who restores the finish and by what method. Housekeeping products are to be checked against the manual before use.

SPARES AND REFINISHING

Supply [__] spare [handles / panels] from the same batch as the installed parts, marked and packed with the manual. The manual is to state the refinish route for each finish [re-dress along the grain by a specialist / replace the part / strip and re-lacquer]. Any living finish is accepted by the client in writing [date].

TERMS USED

Living finish

A metal finish left unsealed so it changes colour with handling and time, as opposed to a lacquered one that stays as made.

Lacquer (on metal)

A clear protective coat over polished or patinated metal to slow tarnishing. It can wear or yellow in high-touch areas and eventually needs stripping and reapplying.

Mirror polish

A highly reflective stainless or metal surface made by progressive polishing. It shows fingerprints, scratches and weld marks readily.

Surface roughness (Ra)

A measured average of how rough a surface is, in micrometres. Lower is smoother; IMOA treats Ra 0.5 um or less as smooth for corrosion purposes. The same named finish can have different Ra from different suppliers.

Grain direction

The direction of the lines left by brushing or polishing. Vertical grain is easier for rain and cleaners to wash than horizontal grain, and mismatched directions across panels are very visible.

Bead blasting

Impacting the surface with fine glass beads to give an even, non-directional matt texture with low reflectivity. It is not covered by the EN 10088-2 finish codes, so describe it and agree a sample.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BSSA SSAS Information Sheet 7.20, Care and Maintenance of Stainless Steel (issue 02, 12 March 2001)
- Euro Inox, Building Series Vol. 15, Cleaning Architectural Stainless Steel (2nd ed. 2011)
- Euro Inox, Building Series Vol. 1, Guide to Stainless Steel Finishes (3rd ed. 2005)
- CCI Notes 9/3, Cleaning, Polishing and Protective Waxing of Brass and Copper (rev. 2007): museum objects.
- BS EN 1906 (lever handles and knob furniture) and BS EN 1670 (corrosion resistance), building hardware: listings read; texts not read; check the current editions.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/high-touch-hospitality-metal-finishes. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.