

Side Mounted Glass Balustrade System

Care & Maintenance Guide — 42.4 mm side fix stainless steel posts and handrail with 10 mm toughened glass — satin 316

This guide sets out what the side mounted Post & Handrail system is made from, how long it can be expected to last, and the routine care that keeps it looking as it should. Side fix posts sit on the outside edge of the structure, where they take the weather, so regular cleaning matters.

01 MATERIALS & EXPECTED LIFE

COMPONENT	MATERIAL	EXPECTED LIFE
Posts, corner brackets, handrail and fittings	316 marine-grade stainless steel, brushed, uncoated	Decades with occasional cleaning — 316 resists corrosion, including in coastal locations
Glass	10 mm toughened safety glass to BS EN 12150	Does not weather; keep the edges free of chips

316 is the most corrosion-resistant stainless grade in common architectural use.

What shortens its life

- Installation that does not follow document TOL-PHS-BAL Technical Specification
- Glass installed without the gaskets, or clamped directly against metal
- Harsh chemicals, solvent-based or abrasive cleaners
- Contact with carbon steel, steel wool or non-stainless fixings
- Water standing behind the posts against the structure
- Any modification to posts, brackets, clamps, fittings or glass

02 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

TASK	STANDARD SETTING	COASTAL OR POOLSIDE
Clean stainless steel	Every 2–3 months	Rinse weekly with fresh water
Clean glass	As needed	As needed
Check post fixings	Twice a year	Twice a year
Check saddle and handrail screws	Twice a year	Twice a year
Check clamp screws and gaskets	Twice a year	Twice a year
Full inspection	Annually	Every 6 months

03 MAINTENANCE DETAIL

Stainless steel

- Wash with warm water and mild detergent, wiping along the grain
- Dry with a microfibre cloth to avoid water marks
- Rinse with fresh water after salt spray or pool splash
- Clean the section of post below floor level too — it is the part most often missed

Post fixings

- Check every post is firm on the face it is fixed to and the fixings are tight
- On timber structures, check the timber around the fixings is sound and dry

Handrail

- Check the handrail sits firmly in every saddle and the screws are tight
- Check in-line joints are closed up and end caps, scroll ends and wall flanges are secure
- The handrail is handled more than any other part — clean it as often as the posts

Glass

- Clean with a non-abrasive glass cleaner or warm soapy water and a soft cloth
- Never use scrapers, blades or abrasive pads on the glass
- Check the edges for chips during each inspection

Clamps and gaskets

- Check clamp screws are tight and every gasket is in place
- Replace a damaged or missing gasket before re-tightening the clamp

04 TEA STAINING

Brown surface marks on stainless steel are tea staining — airborne contaminants and salt bonding to the surface. It is cosmetic. It does not affect the strength of the system and it is not a material defect. It removes with a non-abrasive stainless steel restorer, and cleaning more often in exposed locations is how it is prevented.

05 CLEANING PRODUCTS

USE	NEVER USE
Mild detergent and warm water	Bleach
pH-neutral stainless steel cleaner	Hydrochloric acid or acidic descalers
Non-abrasive glass cleaner	Abrasive pads and creams
Microfibre cloths	Steel wool — leaves carbon particles that rust into the surface

06 REPORTING A PROBLEM

1. Check every pane on delivery and report any transit damage within 48 hours
2. For any other problem, email info@theoutdoorlook.co.uk with your order number, a description and clear photographs of the affected area and the whole installation
3. Do not remove or modify the affected items before we have looked at it

Call 01282 526428, Monday to Friday 9 to 5. This guide does not affect your statutory rights.

This document covers the side mounted Post & Handrail glass balustrade system.