

# OUTDOOR SHOWERS NEW ZEALAND

## Premium Care & Maintenance Guide

*Preserving Your Marine-Grade 316 Stainless Steel Investment*

### 1. Understanding Your Shower & Tea Staining

Your outdoor shower is meticulously crafted from premium Marine-Grade 316 Stainless Steel, representing the pinnacle of corrosion resistance and structural endurance for high-exposure environments. However, it is vital to remember that "stainless" does not equal "stain-proof." The combined action of wind-borne coastal salts, ambient humidity, and intense Southern Hemisphere UV rays requires simple, routine maintenance to preserve its flawless factory shine.

- **What is Tea Staining?** In highly concentrated maritime or coastal areas, airborne sea salt crystals settle directly onto the face of the metal. If left uncleaned, these salt deposits accumulate, concentrate, and result in a light brown, rust-colored surface discoloration known across the industry as tea staining.
- **Does it cause structural damage?** No. Tea staining is purely superficial, visual oxidation; it is entirely cosmetic and does not compromise or damage the underlying structural integrity of your solid steel shower.
- **The Golden Maintenance Rule:** Treat your outdoor shower exactly like a premium vehicle—it requires a quick, periodic fresh water washdown to remain clean, brilliant, and free from corrosive build-up.

### 2. Routine Maintenance & Cleaning

Keep your shower pristine by adhering to the following rinsing schedules and cleaning protocols to clear salt crusts before they bond to the surface:

#### Rinsing Schedule:

- **Standard Locations:** Thoroughly hose down the exterior body of the shower fixture with clean, fresh tap water **at least once per month**.
- **Beachfront / High-Exposure Areas:** If your property sits directly on an ocean beachfront or high-exposure cliff edge, increase this to a quick **fortnightly (every two weeks)** spray.

**CRITICAL WARNING:** Never use steel wool, wire abrasive scrubbers, or harsh chemical bleaching agents. These aggressive compounds will permanently scratch or score the high-polish finish and physically strip away the steel's native chromium oxide self-healing protective layer.

#### Approved Cleaning Method:

- Clean gently using a lint-free microfiber cloth or a non-scratch household nylon cleaning pad.

- Pair with a specialized stainless steel surface cleaner or marine-grade metal polish. Trusted products like **3M Stainless Steel Cleaner** or **Innoshine B570** are highly effective and readily available at local Bunnings Warehouses and commercial New Zealand hardware suppliers.
- Always rinse the unit comprehensively with fresh water after every wipe down.

### 3. Important Notice for South Island Buyers

Because South Island winters bring prolonged, severe sub-zero temperatures and heavy frosts, standard gravity draining may not completely protect your investment. When environmental water drops below freezing temperatures, its volume expands by roughly 9%. If standing water remains trapped inside internal mixing valves, cartridges, or pipelines, this expansion will generate immense internal pressure and can easily crack, split, or burst the brass and steel mechanisms.

**Please consult a local, registered plumber to implement professional winterisation measures tailored to your specific alpine or inland climate, such as:**

- **Installing an In-Line Blow-Out Valve:** A dedicated valve that allows compressed air to completely purge any stubborn, microscopic water droplets trapped deep inside the internal mixer cartridges and vertical columns prior to the first seasonal frost.

#### GENERAL ADVICE & BUYER RESPONSIBILITY

Please note that the information provided in this guide constitutes general maintenance advice. Environmental factors across New Zealand vary dramatically; therefore, it is ultimately the responsibility of the buyer to ensure their outdoor shower is adequately protected, winterised, and maintained for the specific local climate and conditions in which it is installed. Please consult local trade professionals for specialized assistance with your installation.