### **CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE - HARDWARE**

### **NOTE\***

Guardian Stainless Steel components made from 316 marine grade stainless steel are subject to discolouration over time. This discolouration is commonly known as Tea Staining and can be removed by following correct maintenance procedures.

## WHAT IS TEA STAINING?

Tea staining is commonly used to describe the discolouration of stainless steel and occurs when particles gather and oxidises the surface of stainless steel. Tea staining is not a serious form of corrosion and does not affect the structural integrity or longevity of the material.

#### **FACTORS CAUSING TEA STAINING:**

- **1.** Coastal environments. Becomes progressively severe the closer you get to the water (most of New Zealand is considered a coastal area)
- 2. Pollution in the environment
- 3. Higher temperatures and humidity

# **HOW TO REMOVE TEA STAINS?**

• Use specialised cleaning products such as a Stainless Steel Cleaner and a non-scratch cleaning sponge.

# **HOW TO MINIMISE TEA STAINS?**

- Wash regularly with clean fresh water, mild detergent and a cloth or soft brush
- After washing, rinse with clean water and wipe the surface dry with a soft absorbent cloth going with the grain on brushed stainless steel
- Do not use abrasive cleaners or a scouring pad of any type to avoid excessive wear and dulling the finish

