



BOYD METALS

STAINLESS STEEL FINISHES VISUAL GUIDE

As you explore the range of stainless steel standard finishes, you'll gain insight into their characteristics, applications, and the craftsmanship behind their creation. When starting a home or business project requiring stainless steel, it's essential to have a comprehensive understanding of the finishes available and their impact on appearance and functionality.

From standard off-the-rack products to meticulously polished surfaces, the journey from raw material to the final polished state involves a series of precise processes that define the end result. Where forming is severe, or much welding is done, it is often more economical to use a cold rolled finish and then polish. Focusing on key information, we aim to guide you toward an informed metal ordering decision for your next project, making sure your stainless steel selection meets your aesthetic preferences and functional requirements.

UNPOLISHED FINISHES



NO. 1 FINISH

Hot rolled, annealed and descaled. This is generally used in industrial applications, such as for heat or corrosion resistance, where the smoothness of the finish is not of particular importance, like the inside of an oven.



NO. 2D FINISH

A dull cold rolled finish is produced by cold rolling, annealing, and descaling. The dull finish may result from the descaling or pickling operation or may be developed by a final light cold roll pass on dull rolls. The dull finish is favorable for the retention of lubricants on the surface in deep drawing operations. This finish is generally used in forming deep-drawn articles, which may be polished after fabrication. Most common applications are the exhaust of a car and chemical equipment.



NO. 2B FINISH

A bright cold rolled finish commonly produced in the same manner as No. 2D, except that the annealed and descaled sheet receives a final light cold rolled pass on polished rolls. This is a general purpose cold rolled finish. It is commonly used for all but exceptionally difficult deep drawing applications. Popular end uses are kitchen cookware and pharmaceutical equipment. This finish is more readily polished than No. 1 or No. 2D Finish.

POLISHED FINISHES



NO. 3 FINISH

This is a polished finish obtained with abrasives, approximately 100 grit, which may or may not be additionally polished during fabrication. In end-use applications, it is similar to the No. 4 finish.



NO. 4 FINISH

This is a general-purpose polished finish widely used for restaurant equipment, kitchen equipment, storefronts, dairy equipment, etc. Following initial grinding with coarser abrasives, sheets are generally finished last with abrasives, approximately 120 to 150 grit.



NO. 6 FINISH

This is a dull satin finish with lower reflectivity than No. 4 Finish. It is produced by Tampico brushing No. 4 Finish sheets in an abrasive and oil medium. It is used for architectural applications and ornamentation where a high luster is undesirable, like wall panels or trim on the outside of a building. It is also used effectively to contrast with brighter finishes.



NO. 7 FINISH

This has a high degree of reflectivity. It is produced by buffing a finely ground surface, but the grit lines are not removed. It is chiefly used for architectural and ornamental purposes in similar applications as the No. 6 finish.



NO. 8 FINISH

This is the most reflective finish commonly produced. It's obtained by polishing with successively finer abrasives and extensively buffing with very fine buffing rouges. The surface is essentially free of grit lines from preliminary grinding operations. This finish is the most widely used for press plates, small mirrors, signs, reflectors and even the famous *Cloud Gate* by artist Anish Kapoor in Chicago.

Remember, what you see in everyday use differs from standard off-the-rack stainless steel products. You've gained insights into the processes involved in achieving specific finishes, highlighting the importance of informed decision-making. Assisting in planning our customers' project success is one of our goals at Boyd Metals. Additionally, our processing services ensure that your stainless steel meets your exact requirements, whether it's cutting, forming, or polishing.

With Boyd, you have the resources and expertise to make confident choices for your stainless steel projects, making sure they meet both your aesthetic preferences and functional needs.

