

# How to Maintain Your Handrails for Long-Lasting Beauty & Durability

At Alamo Stairs, we use professional grade finishes like Sherwin-Williams Emerald Enamel for painted handrails and Bona's Finishes for stained woods. These premium products provide a durable, high-quality finish. With simple care, they'll stay looking great for years.



**Painted**



**Stained/Clear Finish**

## What We Suggest for Cleaning

The best cleaning method depends on whether your handrails are painted or stained:

For **Painted Handrails:**



- Mix a few drops of mild dish soap with warm water.
- Use a soft microfiber cloth and gently wipe the surface. Avoid scrubbing, as it can wear down the finish.
- Dry with a clean cloth to prevent moisture damage.
- Avoid: harsh chemicals, Magic Erasers, alcohol-based cleaners (like disinfecting or baby wipes), and abrasive pads...

For **Stained & Sealed Handrails :**



- Use a wood-safe cleaner (like Bona) or a light vinegar-water mix (1:2 or 1:3). For stained finishes only — avoid on painted surfaces.)
- Wipe with a microfiber cloth, following the wood grain to prevent streaks and scratches.
- If you want to maintain a richer look over time, you can occasionally apply a light wood polish (like Bona), but it's not required for normal use.

# How Often to Clean Your Handrails

Since handrails are frequently touched, we recommend cleaning them about once every two weeks.

In busier households (kids, pets, heavy use), once or twice a week helps prevent buildup and keeps the finish looking its best.

# What NOT to Use on Your Handrails

Avoid these common cleaning methods that can damage the finish over time:

## For Painted Handrails:



Baby wipes & disinfecting wipes – can break down the paint and cause dullness or peeling.

Magic erasers & abrasive pads – can wear away the protective paint layer.

Harsh chemicals (bleach, ammonia, vinegar, alcohol-based cleaners) – can weaken the paint over time.

For Stained & Sealed Handrails:

## For Stained Handrails:



Ammonia-based cleaners (like Windex) – can strip the protective finish.

Excess water or steam cleaning – can damage the wood and finish.

Abrasive scrubbing or dry dusting – can create fine scratches and dull the surface.

Following these simple guidelines will help keep your handrails looking clean, smooth, and long-lasting.