
THE KITCHEN RESET · FIELD NOTE 07

Follow the grain. Lose the fingerprints.

Stainless-look appliances may have a fingerprint-resistant coating. The brand's care sheet comes first; a specialty polish is not automatically suitable.

YOUR KIT

Soft cloths; appliance-approved cleaner; dry towel



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Three deliberate steps.

01 Check the coating

Find the appliance model and its care instructions. Confirm whether the surface permits a polish or simply a mild cleaning method.

02 Lift the marks

Apply cleaner to a soft cloth, away from vents and controls. Wipe with the visible grain using light pressure.

03 Buff with a fresh face

Remove residue as directed. Use a dry cloth for a final pass with the grain, then check from the side for smears.

The final check.

☐ Handle and lower edge checked

☐ Vents and controls dry

☐ No oily residue

Know when to pause.

Skip steel wool and unapproved abrasives. Do not use an oil hack on an unknown coating.

Match the coating, then follow the grain.

Always follow the surface maker's care instructions and product label. Never mix cleaning products. This guide is for ordinary household care, not hazardous-material remediation. Product-specific instructions take priority.

Related references and service information: [Cleaning and disinfecting: CDC](#)

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