

# CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES



**KEY-LINK™**  
FENCING & RAILING



260 JALYN DRIVE, NEW HOLLAND, PA 17557 TF: 717-355-7100 | FX: 717-355-7129  
[KEYLINKONLINE.COM](http://KEYLINKONLINE.COM)

## THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING KEY-LINK!

In this document you'll find manufacturer's guidelines for keeping your Key-Link system clean and well maintained. Aluminum is designed to be a low-maintenance material, so with periodic cleaning (and occasional cable re-tensioning if needed), your system will retain its beauty and functionality for many years.

Maintaining the appearance of your architectural fencing and railing is a smart way to protect your investment. Over time and with exposure to elements, your fencing or railing may show signs of weathering such as a reduction in gloss, chalking, or a slight color change. Regular cleaning can minimize the effects of weathering and will remove dirt, grime, and other build-up detrimental to your aluminum's appearance.

Cable tension can also loosen over time. This is easy to address with a few simple tools, and you'll find the instructions for how to do so in the Re-Tensioning Your Cable section of this document.

## ALUMINUM CLEANING GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to American, Chesapeake, and Outlook Series railing and posts as well as Residential and Commercial Series aluminum fence. See additional sections for information on cable and cable fittings.

The best method of maintaining the appearance of your aluminum is to occasionally wash it using a solution of warm water and a non-abrasive, pH neutral detergent solution. We recommend cleaning two times per year. The surface should be thoroughly rinsed after cleaning to remove all residues. All surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth, sponge, or soft bristle brush. If a pressure washer is used, do not exceed 400 PSI.

The following cleaners have been approved by Key-Link Fencing & Railing Inc.: 409®; Spraynine®; Simple Green®; Fantastik®; or Windex®. **DO NOT clean your fence or railing with solvents such as thinners or solutions containing chlorinated hydrocarbons, esters or ketenes.**





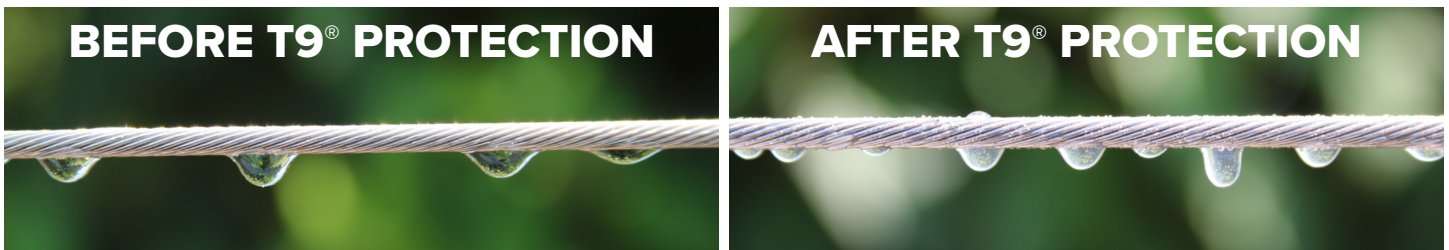
## STAINLESS STEEL CABLE CLEANING GUIDELINES

These guidelines apply to Key-Link's stainless steel cable infill in both horizontal and vertical configurations or used with Key-Link external cable fittings.

Stainless steel is a corrosion-resistant material because of the protective chromium oxide film on its surface. Regular maintenance is required to keep its luster and durability. Without proper maintenance you are likely to see slight rusting or staining, especially in coastal areas. Fortunately, these small rust spots and discolorations are easy to remove.



For maintenance and stain removal: clean the cable with a rust and stain remover. Key-Link recommends **Boeshield's Rust Free® Rust and Stain Remover**. Do not use mineral acids or bleaches. Once clean you may then apply a thin coating of **Boeshield T-9® Waterproof Rust & Corrosion Protection**. Both Rust Free® and T-9® are available through your Key-Link dealer.



Do not use sandpaper, steel wool, or ScotchBrite® pads to polish cable or cable fittings, as anything abrasive will take the sheen off of the metal. Cloths or non-abrasive sponges work well in combination with cleaners listed above.

Outside of coastal regions, cable railing should be cleaned twice per year. We suggest spring cleaning before deck season begins and fall cleaning when the season ends.

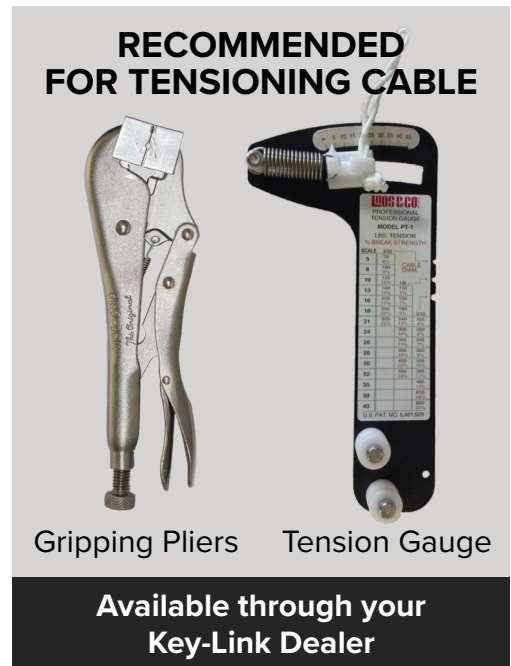
If you are within one mile of saltwater, cleaning should be done at least four times per year or as needed. Neglecting regular cleaning can result in discoloration, corrosion, and potentially void your warranty.



## RE-TENSIONING YOUR CABLE

Over time, cable infill may lose some tension. This is not a defect in the product, simply a result of human interference, temperature changes, or other factors. Fortunately, Key-Link cable is simple to re-tension. We recommend a Key-Link tension gauge, available from your local dealer, to assist in finding the proper tension. If you do not have a tension gauge, you risk over tensioning your cable and damaging the integrity of the system.

Key-Link also recommends our gripping pliers to hold the cable in place while tensioning. If the cable spins, it may not tension correctly. The specially engineered head on Key-Link's pliers holds the cable in place for tensioning without crushing or damaging the strands. If you don't have Key-Link pliers, you may hold the cable in place with traditional pliers, but place a clean rag between the pliers and cable to protect it.



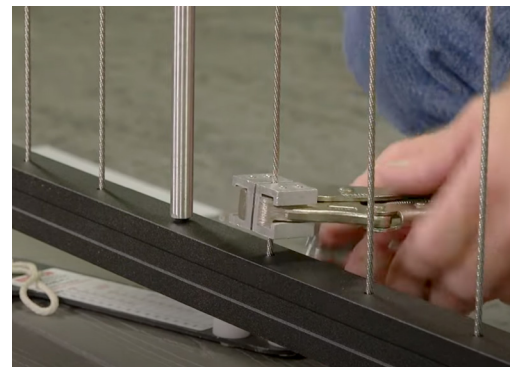
## HORIZONTAL CABLE TENSIONING

Use a hex key (also known as an Allen key) to re-tension your horizontal cable system. Maximum tension for horizontal cable is 200 lbs. If you don't have a tension gauge to measure this, note that cable should be able to move in all directions and return to position.



## VERTICAL CABLE TENSIONING

Use a 7/16" socket wrench to re-tension your vertical cable section. Maximum tension for vertical cable is 105 lbs. If you don't have a tension gauge to measure this, note that cable should still be able to move in all directions and return to position.



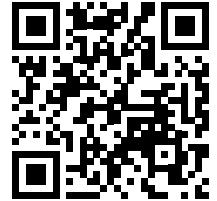
## CABLE FITTINGS TENSIONING

Use a 7/16" wrench to re-tension cable that is secured with Key-Link external cable fittings. Maximum tension for this cable is 100-150 lbs. If you don't have a tension gauge to measure this, note that cable should still be able to move in all directions and return to position.





[Click Here](#) or scan the QR code to find videos of cleaning railing and cable, as well as re-tensioning cable.



To register your warranty, make a warranty claim, or find additional resources, please [Click Here](#) or scan the QR code.



**KEY-LINK™**  
FENCING & RAILING



[keylinkonline.com](https://keylinkonline.com)

260 Jalyn Drive, New Holland, PA 17557

717-355-7130 // Toll Free: 888-704-7130

Fax: 717-355-7139

© 2023 Key-Link Fencing & Railing | KFR230712