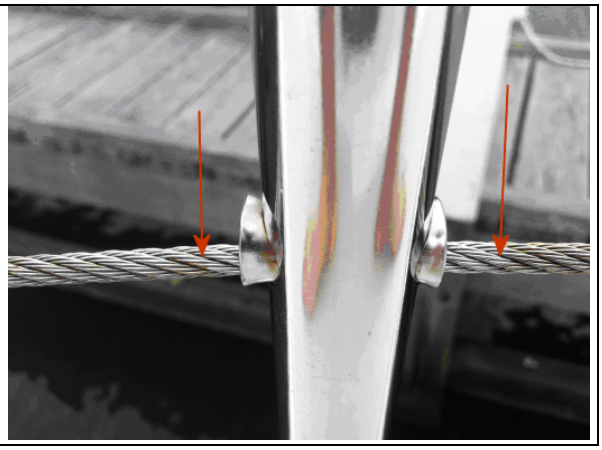
Believe it or not!

My primary pursuit in life is to make things as easy for myself as I can, and I am often disappointed when my latest find doesn't work out as well as I hoped. However, from time to time I hit the jackpot. If you already have a really easy solution to keep your stainless bright then don't bother reading, but if you use polish and rags and elbow grease and get black gunk all over your boat, read on.

Recent editions of an Australian cruising magazine have been advertising "Spotless Stainless" which claims brush on/brush off sparkling stainless. Although expecting to be disappointed, I am not, it is amazing. With nothing more than brush on, leave 30 minutes and brush off with a hose you can see the results below – simply unachievable even with a toothbrush and polish.

Before	**After**
	
	





So far the fittings, staunchions and wires I have painted are coming up like new. The lowest left photo shows the bow rollers with the port treated and the starboard not yet. The lower right photo shows the effect on the lifelines, although I just brushed the staunchion the lifelines to 10 mm either side are now like new also and I have since run a sponge wet with Spotless Stainless along the lifelines and they scrubbed up like new also.

It is a passivating paste of citric acid in a gel, harmless to fibreglass (I spilt it all over the deck and didn't clean it off for 10 minutes, no effect at all) and it claims to leave the stainless bright for longer because it strengthens, doesn't remove like polish does, the protective layer of chromium oxide that stops stainless rusting.

The biggest downside is escalation! You clean one fitting and then everything else within eyesight looks terrible and needs cleaning too. You clean that and then more yellow stainless appears somewhere else, and on, and on, and on, I even had to paint my anchor in the end……Avalon looks like she was just delivered from the riggers, sparkling! I used nearly a full pint bottle to do 95% of the boat, a quart would give you some left over.

Russ Peel
Avalon
C350 hull number 150