

GRAVESTONE CLEANING EQUIPMENT AND D2 DIRECTIONS 2021

KIT ESSENTIALS

- Large pail container
- Two or more plastic scrapers
- Large brush
- Small brush
- Eye protection
- Disposable gloves
- D2 in spray bottle
- Spray jug for water
- Project vest
- Phone (for safety); camera
- Project Binder

HELPFUL ADD-ONS

- Smaller pail with handle (to carry water)
- Toothbrush, nail brush, vegetable brush
- Wooden skewers, popsicle sticks, etc.
- Your own choice for work gloves
- Sun screen, bug spray
- Hat, sun glasses
- Collapsible seat or stool
- Drinking water
- Paper, pen, clipboard
- Wet wash cloth in zip-lock or wet wipes
- Small whisk broom/dust pan-type brush

D2 Cleaning Summary

PLEASE NOTE: Use ONLY PLAIN WATER and D2. (D2 is a biologic agent that is safe to use on gravestones. It is not harmful, but you should avoid getting it in your eyes.) **NEVER** use anything METAL or ABRASIVE. If a stone is unstable, cracked, flaking, leaning badly or in any way questionable to clean, please *make a note* of the issues.

DO NOT PROCEED. When cleaning and recording, remember to include the supporting stone base and any corresponding footstones.

* Before you begin, record your name and current date on top line of data sheet. Make sure the stone you are about to clean corresponds to the 'before' photo on the back of the data sheet. (It is usually easier to do the detailed data entry *after* the stone is clean.)

* Using a plastic scraper, remove any dried and loose lichen that is easily detached. Remove only what peels off with minimal effort.

* Wet/soak the stone **thoroughly** ~ back, sides, base, front, using lots and lots of water. (It will take time to get soaking wet.) Use only plain water (from the Cemetery spigots).

* After a thorough soaking, use a soft bristle brush to scrub away as much surface dirt, lichen, or algae as you can. Rinse as needed.

* Use wooden sticks, plastic scrapers, or a toothbrush to remove what can be easily dislodged in the lettering, decorative carving, or other intricate sculpted areas.

* Rinse your brushes as you work. (*they should be dirty!*)

- * Keep scrubbing, scraping, and picking. Leave the surface as free of dirt and softened lichen as possible, then rinse the entire surface one last time.
- * Generously apply D2 to the well rinsed stone and using a clean brush work it all over the stone surface: lettering, carving and base—scrub as energetically as you dare- one section at a time. **This is the primary cleaning effort.** You may have to repeat this process more than once, using a little more D2. Depending on the stone material and composition of the soiling, the stone may become alarmingly discolored; fear not, it will improve over time.
- * Allow the D2 to work for 20 to 30 minutes – or longer. You might use this time to record the entire stone (see data sheet instructions), make notes, or begin work on a corresponding footstone or adjacent marker.
- * When ready to continue, wet the stone again and use brushes, detail tools and gentle elbow grease to remove stubborn deposits/stains. D2 will work up a 'lather.' This is the final effort, so take your time; leave the entire stone as clean as possible. Rinse well.
- * Generously re-apply D2 to entire cleaned stone; use clean brush to evenly work the D2 into/onto every surface. **YOU ARE DONE. (DO NOT RINSE.)**
- * If lighting conditions are good, photograph the cleaned stone (or come back in a few weeks to photograph the final results of your hard work. D2 will continue to work over the next weeks and months.)

Important note: Your 'after' photographs will be taking on even more value and historical importance as this project expands. Please don't hesitate to include close up images of carving details, interesting elements or idiosyncrasies, previous repairs, serious cracks or breaks, or any other details that interest or concern you.