

## **CLEANING GRANITE MEMORIALS IN THE CEMETERY**

The granite memorial you have purchased is a combination of the finest natural materials and modern craftsmanship. However, like any material exposed to the elements some maintenance is recommended. Memorials are exposed to airborne pollution, chemical residues from fertilizer and weed killers, and especially mineral deposits from water.

**Never use waxes or polishes on the granite.** Any window-cleaning agent, such as Windex, will bring up the natural luster by cleaning the surface of the stone.

Once or twice a year, perhaps on an anniversary, birthday or Memorial Day, use a solution made from three or four tablespoons of dishwashing soap, such as Dawn or Palmolive, and one quart of water to scrub the memorial. A fiber-bristled brush (**Do not use plastic or metal bristle brushes**) should be used and when the washing is completed, the memorial should be rinsed thoroughly. Take care not to get the solution in your eyes by wearing appropriate eye protection. It is best if this cleaning is done when the memorial is cool – early morning or late afternoon is best. Recently we have heard positive reports from people who have used a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser to clean and whiten dull and dirty lettering on markers.

For heavy mineral (calcium) deposits, the memorial can be cleaned with a grill brick (extra fine pumice stone). Pumice is a soft volcanic rock that can be used to clean polished granite. Grill bricks can be purchased in the cemetery office for \$7.00 or at a home improvement store. Please note this is not the same type of pumice stone that is used on skin, a grill brick pumice is much softer. Instructions on using a grill brick are below:

**WARNING: DO NOT USE GRILL BRICKS ON –ETCHED PHOTOS, PORCELAIN PHOTOS - MARBLE, BRONZE OR NON-POLISHED SURFACES!**

1. Clean & wipe off memorial to remove any loose debris. This step is very important.
2. Pumice should be used wet. Gently rub the pumice stone on the polished surfaces in a light, circular motion. Do **not** try to clean in areas where the polish has been removed. The pumice stone will slowly wear away while removing the surface buildup.
3. Wipe or wash off the residue.

**Hard water spots on your porcelain portraits can be cleaned as follows:**

We recommend using a product called CLR. It's made by Jelmar and can be found in most hardware stores. A few notes of caution: 1) please wear protective gear including eye protection and gloves, 2) use very little on a rag or sponge and keep it away from the sealant and the granite. We've even heard that after cleaning a portrait, some customers wax the portrait with car wax to slow the progression of hard water spots returning. Be careful **not** to get any wax on the granite surrounding your portrait.

### **LOCAL COMPANIES THAT PREFORM PROFESSIONAL HEADSTONE CLEANING**

- 1.) VINCENT MARTINEZ- (VM STONE CARE) 951-640-2232  
[VMSTONECARE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:VMSTONECARE@YAHOO.COM)
- 2.) ROBERT VASQUEZ – (AQUA-SCAN MEMORIALS) 951.805.1207  
[AQUASCAN1@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AQUASCAN1@GMAIL.COM)

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