

Cleaning Methods for Cemetery Grave Markers

What is the reason for cleaning the monument?

- Soiling
- Staining
- Particulate Matter/Gypsum crusts
- Biological growth
- Vandalism/graffiti

What are some considerations regarding cleaning methods?

- Acceleration of deterioration
- Loss of original materials
- Long-term stability of monument
- Long-term effects of cleaners

Types of Cleaning.

- Chemical
- Mechanical
- Combination

Acceptable products for chemical cleaning.

- Non-ionic detergents
- pH neutral or pH similar to that of the stone
- Surfactants
- Solvents
- Biocides
- Intermittent water misting

Unacceptable products for chemical cleaning.

- Salt-base cleaners
- Harsh acids
- Harsh bases

Acceptable methods of mechanical cleaning.

- Low pressure, power-washing (less than 300 psi, with caution and proper application)
- Mechanical agitation using soft bristle brushes

Unacceptable methods of mechanical cleaning.

- Sand blasting
- High-pressure power-washing (greater than 300 psi)
- Grinders
- Wire brushes