

Veteran Headstone Cleaning Kit Items

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*** Watch my YouTube video: "Headstone Cleaning Kit Tools and Supplies Updated"

- Copy of the National Cemetery Administration best practices protocol document:
 - "Cleaning Government-Furnished Headstones and Markers"
- Cleaning agent: D/2 Biological Solution
 - 1-quart (32 oz.) of D/2 can conservatively clean 10 upright veteran headstones.
 - 1-gallon (128 oz.) of D/2 can conservatively clean 40 upright veteran headstones.
 - I have wetted the entire surfaces of 88 clean upright veteran headstones using 1-gallon of clean water. The conservative figure of 40 upright veteran headstones per 1-gallon of D/2 Biological Solution is assuming the absorption of liquid by biological growth affixed to the surface of upright veteran headstones covered by biological filth.
- Scrub brush: Magnolia Brush with Tampico natural bristles
 - Magnolia Brush model 179-T for medium to large hands
 - Magnolia Brush model 161 for small to medium hands
 - I keep both brush models in my veteran headstone cleaning kit!
- Water: I carry six 1-gallon jugs of clean water in a large plastic bin when traveling to a cemetery to clean headstones.
 - 2-gallons of clean water are needed to clean 1 upright veteran headstone.
 - 1-gallon of clean water is needed to clean 1 ground level veteran grave marker.
- Spray bottle for squirting clean water
 - I prefer a wide bottom spray bottle to avoid tipping on uneven ground.
 - Some people prefer a 1-gal or 2-gal pump up sprayer.
- Safety glasses * Leather gardening gloves * Rubber mallet
- Rubber gloves: I prefer a slightly loose-fitting glove due to sweat inside the glove.
- Toothbrushes: I purchase multi-packs of quality toothbrushes at retail stores.
- Wooden paint stir sticks: available at any paint store or paint department.
 - The National Cemetery Administration forbids the use of plastic bristle brushes, so plastic scrapers are a definite no-no to avoid scratching the natural stone.
 - Wooden paint stir sticks make excellent scrapers.
- Bench broom aka foxtail: for brushing sand off the surface of the headstone.
- Garden trowl: for removing accumulated debris from atop or around base of stone.
- Garden sheers: for cutting away vines, shrubs, weeds, roots, and small trees.
- Garden loppers: for cutting away substantial growth.
- Manual hedge trimmers: for cutting grass and weeds around the base of the stone.
- Scissors: for cutting grass and weeds around the base of a stone.
- Tool tote: I prefer a cleaning supplies tote, or a 5-gallon bucket can also work.
- Flag holders: I use 15" segments of ½ inch PVC pipe, or you can purchase them.
- Grave flags: 8" x 12" American flags on 24" wooden sticks. I prefer grave flags with stitching around the edges, because they seem to last longer. Amazon.com has a good selection!
- Plastic Zip ties: I tighten a zip tie on my grave flags about 5" from bottom of stick.