



MONUMENTAL SALES, INC.

Cleaning Procedures for Granite Markers and Monuments.

First step is to take a soft bristled brush and remove all debris from the surface of the marker/monument.

For light dirt use a solution of water with mild detergent soap. Soaps in this category are most dish-washing detergents. Use either a soft, non-abrasive cloth or a soft bristled scrub brush. Soft plastic bristles or the natural tampico fibers work best. **DO NOT** use a wire brush or any brush with stiff bristles. After 1 to 3 applications of this soap solution be sure to rinse the marker/monument thoroughly. Take care to keep from splashing nearby markers/monuments. The granite may take up to several days to dry completely depending upon weather conditions and temperature.

For moss and lichen growth on a marker/monument which is usually evident by patches or splotches of green, brown or black color you will need to use the following. To your solution of detergent soap and water you will add bleach (1 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water). You may again use a soft bristled brush with this solution. Be sure to wear rubber gloves and make sure you have adequate ventilation. Do not breath in the fumes from this solution. When you have removed the growths on the stone make sure to rinse thoroughly. The bleach can kill the grass unless properly diluted during the rinsing. It is important to prevent any of the bleach solution from contacting any of the surrounding markers/monuments as well as any plantings in the area.

For stubborn stains you will need to use a poltice. Make up the poltice with plaster of paris and white gas (clear kerosene). Mix the two together until you have the consistency of tooth paste. Place the poltice over the entire stain. Allow to sit on the stone for 24 hours. Remove the poltice and rinse the area. It may be necessary to use soap and water after the poltice. It may be necessary to apply the poltice several times to remove the stain completely. If you are applying this on a very hot day you should cover the poltice with plastic wrap and tape the wrap down on all edges. This will keep the white gas from evaporating too quickly.

If you have hard water in the area you will sometimes get mineral deposits on the marker/monument. This can be removed with a calcium-lime-rust remover which is available at most hardware stores. Another method of removing the mineral deposits is to use a very fine steel wool. You will be able to rub over the polished area and remove the mineral deposit without scratching the polish.