

WESTWOOD CEMETERY GRAVESTONE CLEANING

NO HARM CLEANING METHODS

Friends of Westwood Cemetery uses federally-recognized no-harm cleaning methods. This includes the use of water and gentle scraping and scrubbing with plastic tools along with Orvus WA Paste Cleaner and D/2 Biological Solution.

USING THE WRONG CLEANING METHODS CAN RUIN A STONE!

General steps... If the stone is fragile, soft, or in danger of falling, we skip to step 6:

1. Wet the stone with water.
2. Gently use a plastic scraper and brush remove growth and debris. No Metal – Ever!
3. Rinse with water. The stone doesn't need to be perfectly clean, but...
4. If further cleaning is needed, use water and Orvus Paste Cleaner.
 - a. If needed, gently use a plastic scraper and brush to remove growth and debris.
5. Rinse well with water and allow excess water to drain.
6. Wet the stone with a spray of D/2 Biological Solution. D/2 takes a while to kill all biological growth but starts working immediately. Don't panic if the stone darkens dramatically – It's part of the process. With time (sometimes months) this "blush" fades as the stone is cleansed of the biological growth.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. D/2 Biological Solution (<https://d2bio.com>). Purchase D/2 - <https://atlaspreservation.com>
The product is expensive, but don't use lesser products based on price. A gallon cleans approximately 10 average-sized stones.
2. Orvus WA Paste Cleaner can be purchased online at Amazon but also available at stores like Rural King. Get the smallest container you can find. At a spoonful to 5 gallons of water, a little goes a long way.
3. Other items needed: Nylon and/or natural bristle brushes of different sizes, water, plastic Scrapers, buckets, sprayers. *No Metal utensils. No power tools.*

Friends of Westwood will clean your stone for a donation to cover supplies. Just let us know.

You are welcome to attend a cleaning session on the first Saturday of May to September. We will supply the training and materials needed for you to clean. The Friends meeting (schedule) is open to the public.

REFERENCES:

- Cemetery Conservators for United Standards
<https://cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org/>
- National Center for Preservation Technology & Training
www.nps.gov/subjects/ncptt/cemetery-conservation.htm

