



Guidelines for cleaning graves



No construction or maintenance is to commence unless the site has been identified and clearly marked by cemetery staff. No weekend monumental work is to be undertaken unless prior approval has been granted.

The following guidelines are an excerpt from the National Trust Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation.

The objective of cleaning a monument should always be to improve its value as a record and memorial. Procedures which over-clean stone are also the ones most likely to do long-term damage.

General rules

1. Only water based solutions should be used.
2. No hard bristles, scrapers, wire brushes, or abrasive pads (only soft bristle brushes).
3. Always pre-wet the surface before cleaning or applying any agent. This ensures that any residual substances will be brought to the surface as the stone dries out.
4. Clean from the bottom up and rinse constantly to avoid dirty streaking. Avoid use of soaps or organic detergents which may remain and encourage algae, moss and lichen. General purpose cleaners are also unsuitable.

Recommended cleaning agents

- **Quaternary ammonium compounds** (available from swimming pool suppliers). Concentrations and 'dwell time' (time between applying and washing off) vary with the product, but 0.5mL per litre of solution, and allowing dwell time until nearly dry, would be absolute maximums.
- Heavy moulds and organic deposits (such as staining from overhanging trees) will usually respond to organic mould control solutions such as "Zero Moss & Algae Gun" or "Wet & Forget Moss and Mould Remover".
- **Non ionic detergents** eg Kodak Photo-Flo, 1mL per litre.

DO NOT USE STRONG BLEACH, nor equivalent products such as Exit Mould.

DO NOT scrape or scrub the stone, but allow gradual weathering away after treatment. Soft brushing with water a few weeks later will remove some of the stain. The grave will remain clean for at least 12 months.

Repeated applications may be used with at least a week between, but DO NOT over clean, and DO NOT exceed the recommended concentrations.

In all cases, always select an inconspicuous area of the monument and carry out a test clean exactly as proposed, and return to inspect it after at least a week.

Please be careful not to allow any cleaning product to spray or drift on surrounding graves.

Any queries regarding cleaning can be directed to the Cemeteries Supervisor –

Enquiries: 1300 79 49 29

Email: cemeteries@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

DISCLAIMER: While all due care and attention is taken in compilation of this guide the Fraser Coast Regional Council and/or staff does not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage to any structure, monument or thing, no matter how any such loss or damage may arise or be caused.



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