

Headstone Cleaning Guide

Learn how to remove dirt, mold, biological build-up, surface stains, and tough-to-tackle water calcification from **granite headstones** like a professional stone cleaner. Written instructions provided.

Water Calcification

1. Start with a **spray bottle** of soapy water (1 part dish soap, 40 parts water). Saturate entire surface of stone and scrub vigorously with **Tampico brush**. Rinse with distilled water. This will remove surface level dirt and grime.
2. Read all instructions and warnings on **Endurance Hardwater Solvent**. Put on **gloves** and **safety glasses**. Ensure exposed skin is covered. Apply Endurance over the entire surface of the stone. Allow solvent to sit for a minute. Agitate solvent with **Tampico scrub brush** in circular motions. You will notice the solvent turn dark and dirty. Rinse off with distilled water.
3. Identify large areas of the stone surface that are still calcified with hardwater. Reapply **Endurance** to those areas. Agitate with Tampico brush. Re-attack those areas with the **scouring block**. Move the block in a circular motion with flat side against the stone (avoid using the block edge).
4. Small areas of the headstone that feature intricate engravings should be treated with care and caution. To avoid damaging these areas, apply **Endurance**, allow to soak for a minute or two, and then gently scrape away calcification with a **plastic razor blade** or the flat side of the **scouring block**.
5. Rinse the stone thoroughly once surface is clean. Remove scouring dust or grime buildup from stone engravings or lettering using a **detailing brush**. As stone dries, it will return to its normal color and the polished surface will be clean and shiny.

Dirt & Biological Build-Up

1. Start with a **spray bottle** of soapy water (1 part dish soap, 40 parts water). Saturate entire surface of stone and scrub vigorously with **Tampico brush**. This will remove surface level dirt and grime.
2. Identify heavily soiled areas and re-apply soapy water to saturate those areas. Remove tough contaminants, like tree sap or bird droppings, with a **plastic razor blade**.
3. Repeat process as needed. Rinse stone thoroughly with distilled water once surface is clean. Use a detailing brush to clean dust out of engravings and letterings.

Stain Removal

1. Start with a **spray bottle** of soapy water (1 part dish soap, 40 parts water). Saturate entire surface of stone and scrub vigorously with **Tampico brush**. This will remove surface level dirt and grime.
2. Identify stained areas. These may appear as yellow or brown spots that are deeper than surface level. The most common causes of staining are tree sap, fallen fruit, or even tractor oils sitting on the stone surface. Remove sticky residues or contaminants with soapy water and a **plastic razor**.
3. Mix baking soda and water into a thick paste (about 2 parts soda to 1 part water). Apply the paste directly over the stained area. Allow to sit for several hours or up to a full day. For upright headstones, cover the paste with plastic wrap to keep it held in place.
4. Remove the paste with a **plastic razor blade** and rinse the area thoroughly with water. For stubborn stains, add a small amount of hydrogen peroxide to the baking soda and water solution. Reapply, cover with plastic wrap, and allow to sit for several hours before removing and rinsing. Always rinse the stone thoroughly after applying cleaners and solvents.

Supplies & Materials

Items included in your Cleaning Kit:

- (1) Bottle of Endurance Hardwater Solvent
- (1) Tampico Fender Brush
- (2) Scouring Blocks
- (2) Detailing Brushes
- (1) Spray Bottle & Soap
- (1) Plastic Razor Scraper
- (10) Plastic Razor Blades
- (3) Pairs of Vinyl Gloves
- (1) Pair of Safety Glasses
- (1) 2 Gallon Bucket

Additional items needed for cleaning:

- 1-3 Gallons of Distilled Water

Optional items needed for cleaning:

- Baking Soda (Only if treating for surface stains)
- White Vinegar (Only if treating for mold)
- D-2 Biological Solution or Wet & Forget

Mold Removal & Prevention

1. Start with a **spray bottle** of soapy water (1 part dish soap, 40 parts water). Saturate entire surface of stone and scrub vigorously with **Tampico brush**. Rinse with distilled water.
2. Identify areas with mold growth. This will likely be on the rough cut edges of the stone, or directly inside the stone engravings. Use a **detailing brush** to apply a small amount of water-diluted white vinegar to those areas. Gently agitate with the **detailing brush**. Allow to sit for a minute or two.
3. Rinse and repeat until mold is removed. Do NOT saturate the stone's surface with vinegar. Vinegar is acidic and can etch the stone. Alternatives to vinegar include: **D-2 Biological Solution** or **Wet & Forget Cleaner**.