

HOW TO CLEAN A HEADSTONE

Avoid Damage

1. **NEVER** use chemicals, detergents or solvents to clean headstones. Use only clean water.
2. **NEVER** use abrasive pads, metal brushes, scrapers or other metal tools.
3. **NEVER** use high pressure hosing, long-handled or heavy-duty brooms. Always clean gently by hand.
4. **NEVER** use paint or sealants to coat grave stones. They seal in moisture which damages the stone.

Headstone Cleaning Kit

1. Plastic clip-lid bucket
2. Spray bottle or **slow** flow hose
3. Different sized brushes with **soft** natural or nylon bristles. If the bristles are too harsh against your skin, don't use them on headstones.
4. **Micro fibre** cloths or mitt– some textured for **cleaning**, some smooth for **wiping dry**.
5. **Plastic** spatula
6. Rubber gloves

Hand Clean a Headstone Step-by-Step.

1. Work on **one area** at a time.
2. Wet the area with **a little** clean water.
3. Clean with firm even strokes using a **damp micro fibre** cloth.
4. Continue using a cloth or soft brush and water **by turns** until the area is clean.
5. For stubborn dirt, **don't** scrub harder. **Soak** the area first and use **more water** as you clean
6. Work **gently** on and around photos and lettering with a soft toothbrush.
7. Use a **plastic** spatula to gently remove candle wax etc
8. In extreme climates, **clean regularly** to prevent damage from salt, dust, candle or joss smoke, plant stains and animal or bird droppings
9. **Prevent** stains and damage from acids, oils and smoke by using a portable altar or burner
10. **Protect** floors and stone altars using disposable cloths and plates to hold drink, fruit & food offerings.
11. If water doesn't work, **ask for further advice** at the Shire Office.

Follow washing instructions after each use to keep cloths in good condition.