

Cleaning Your Granite Memorial

Clean your memorial on a cool and cloudy day and avoid cleaning a memorial when the surface is hot to prevent quick drying.

Don't start cleaning unless you have plenty of water for scrubbing and rinsing and are wearing eye protection.

If the memorial is an upright, always start cleaning from the bottom and work your way up.

Wet the entire memorial completely with cold, clear water.

Apply a small amount of biodegradable soap on the nylon scrub brush and scrub it on the memorial.

Do not allow the soap to dry on the memorial. If it is a large memorial, clean the base first; then the front and back and the two ends.

Rough or unpolished surfaces require more time and effort than does a polished surface.

Moss or other growth inside of the letters can be removed with a knife. **Do not use knife on polished stone.**

Rinse immediately. Keep the memorial wet while cleaning and continue rinsing throughout the cleaning process.

Let the cleaned surface dry completely. If the first washing does not provide the desired results, repeat the process.

You will want to clean your memorial at least once a year to maintain the look of it. If it is under a tree or in other areas where dirt and grime build up quicker, more cleanings per year may be necessary.



If your memorial has stains, needs a hi-powered pressure wash or you would just like Vancouver Granite Works to take care of cleaning the memorial for you, call us at 360-694-1832 or 503-284-1268. We will be happy to quote you a price to maintain the look of your family's legacy.

Cleaning Your Bronze Memorial

Bronze memorials have a manufacturer provided protective coating that will eventually wear off and be replaced by Mother Nature's own protective coating. During patination, clean the memorial with a soft bristle brush (horsehair is good) and a mild biodegradable detergent.

The patina usually develops in greenish shades but may pass through interesting stages of browns, blues or even reds, (depending on the environment) before reaching its final impervious state.

To delay patination, clean the memorial with a soft bristle brush and a mild biodegradable detergent. After it dries, apply a good car wax per its instructions. Applying it every six months to a year is recommended.



How to Keep Your Memorial Clean Without Ever Getting on Your Knees.

Maintaining your memorial isn't difficult but it can be time consuming. You'll be on your knees, scrubbing the stone, trimming the grass from it and making sure nothing is growing in the letters. But there is an easier way.

Vancouver Granite Works offers you the option of a cleaning contract so that your memorial can be cleaned at the time (or times) of year you would like. So now you can be sure that it will always look good for you on your visit.

Our services include washing the memorial, trimming the grass from around it, inspecting it for any signs of damage from lawnmowers or vandalism and touching up any lettering that needs it. Finally we'll report back to you to let you know the cleaning has been completed and inform you of any thing we found during our inspection.

Cleaning contracts start out as low as \$70 per year depending on the size of the memorial and number of cleanings per year. Call us at 360-694-1832 or 503-284-1268 for more information.

*Artistically Commemorating
Lives Since 1921*

Vancouver Granite Works, Inc. has been artistically commemorating our heritage since 1921. Located in historic Vancouver, WA, we pride ourselves on helping the families we serve provide a tangible reminder of their family's legacy and the story of the individuals who are a part of it.

We are providing this instructional brochure as a service to the families that we serve. We know that you want to maintain the look of the memorial and we want to assist you in this endeavor.

If you ever have questions on how to clean your memorial, any one of our highly skilled staff will be able to help you. Just call us at 360-694-1832 or 503-284-1268.

If the memorial has not been cleaned for many years and is in need of a professional cleaning, we would be happy to provide those services to you. Just call us and we will provide you a quote.



Cleaning Memorials



How to maintain the look of your granite or bronze memorial.