

# How to Clean a Tombstone

This is a simple "How-To" tutorial on cleaning a tombstone. Yes, there are many ways to do it and this is only ONE of the many.

Here is what we have to start with. 100 years of crud. Pretty nasty, huh?



This is NO place for dressy clothes. You did wear something that can take abuse & you won't mind if it gets trashed, right?

The materials you'll need:

- (1) About a gallon of clear water. A cleaned out milk jug works fine.
- (2) Bleach; about 1 or 2 cups per tombstone is usually enough.
- (3) An 8" plastic mixing bowl
- (4) A plastic scrubbing brush with handle.

- (5) Remember to bring gloves & scissors to pull or cut the weeds around the stone.
- (6) Plastic gloves are probably a good idea. I didn't use any the day these pics were shot.

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## How To Clean the Headstone.....

- (1) Pour 1 cup bleach into 3 cups of water to make a strong solvent.
- (2) Start at the top by loading up the brush & letting it soak it's way into the crud at the top.
- (3) Next work your way down the face, reloading your scrub brush often.  
Let the bleach do the hard work!
- (4) Do the sides and back.  
By the time you are done, the stone will be ready for a 2nd application to the front.
- (5) By the 3rd trip down the front, 90% of the crud should be gone.  
Start to dip more often and scrub harder on spots that need attention.
- (6) Give it a final pass on all sides & rinse the stone.

Step three is shown below. Click the picture to see an enlargement.



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Step 5 is shown below... you can see the brush I used.  
The handle kept my hands out of the solvent.  
Notice that I took off my coat on a November day (in Missouri).

**You'll work up a sweat doing this task.**



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**And the final side-by-side comparison...  
The stains of the top were etched into the stone.**



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Remember to put back any decorations, awards, and flowers before you pack up to leave.