

# Guide to Cleaning a Granite Memorial



**Clean Monuments Co.** is a division of a fourth generation and the leading memorial company in Northeast Ohio. In response to many families inquiring on how to properly maintain their loved one's memorial, we have developed this guide.

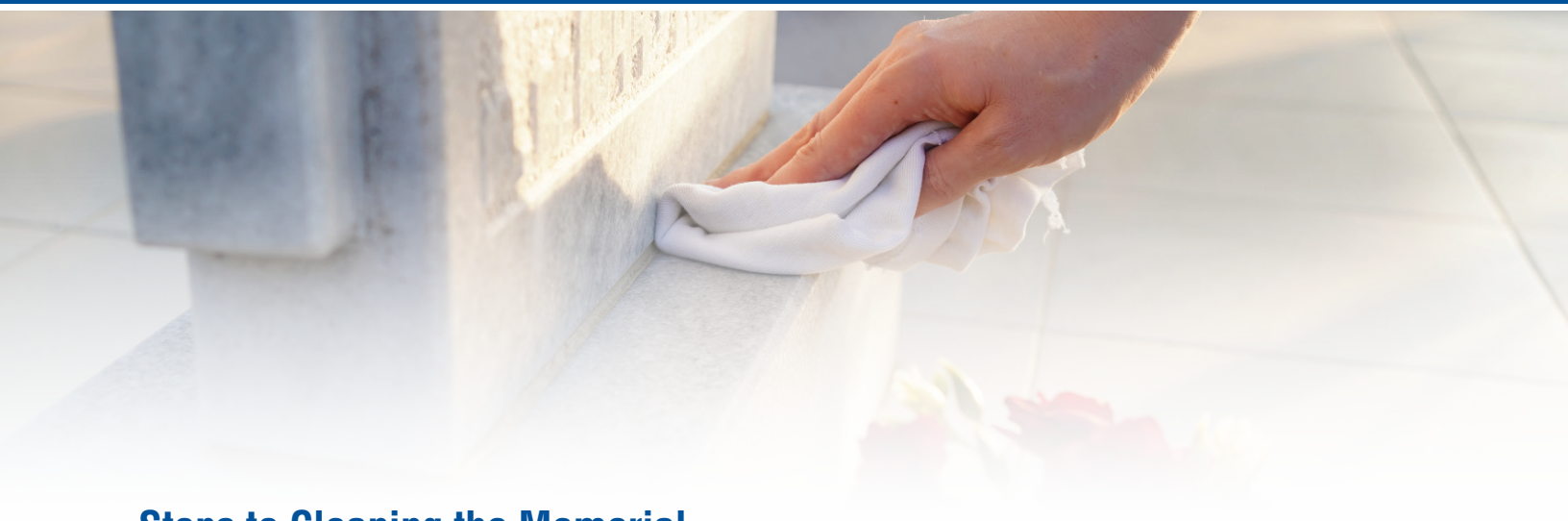
Please keep in mind this is only a guide and Clean Monuments Co. is not liable for any damages resulting from related actions. Also, prior to getting started with cleaning the memorial you must call the cemetery to gain permission.

To have your loved one's memorial professionally cleaned or repaired with complete peace-of-mind, contact us.

## Required Supplies

- **Muratic Acid** – Can be purchased at most hardware stores. The size and number of memorials you will be cleaning will determine the amount needed. Mix 1 part acid to 2 parts water in a clean spray container.  
**BE SURE TO FOLLOW ALL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS!**
- **Clean water** – Needed for acid mixture and for rinsing. Make sure you bring enough to thoroughly rinse the size of headstone you will be working on.
- **Spray bottles** – large weed/garden type sprayers. For acid mixture any type of hand sprayer will work as long as you can hold or make enough mixture to clean the memorial. For the freshwater the ability to spray isn't necessary. Use any type of system you can to carry water to the memorial and rinse off.
- **Pumice stone** – Can be purchased in the cleaning department of most stores. Size that easily fits in your hand is recommended.
- **Rags** – Bring several as you will need them to dry off memorial after rinsing as well as to apply polish when memorial is dry.
- **Aerosol furniture polish** – make sure it contains no dyes or similar substances that may harm the color of the memorial. One can goes a long way.
- **Broom or hand held sweeping brush** – Used to brush off dirt and debris from the stone itself.
- **Rubber gloves/safety goggles** – Be sure to protect yourself from the acid mixture.
- **Trash bag** – For removing debris from the area as well as all waste left over from the cleaning process.
- **Tooth brush** – Use this to get into tight spots or letter engraving on the memorial.
- **Weed cutter** – Motorized or hand powered to give a trim to the grasses that might have built up around the stone.
- **Leaf blower** – Used for an extra quick and thorough drying of the stone.

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## Steps to Cleaning the Memorial

- 1.** Cut any weeds or grasses growing around the memorial. Then brush off all debris from the memorial itself (dirt, grass clippings, bird droppings, etc.). Sweep away all debris from the area and collect them and any trash.
- 2.** With gloves on hands wash the entire memorial with the acid. Then use the pumice stone to scrub the smooth polished areas on the stone.
- 3.** After a good scrub, wash the memorial with another coat of the acid solution.
- 4.** When the memorial is clean, rinse well with the fresh water.
- 5.** After memorial is rinsed completely, use the leaf blower or rags to dry off the stone. The drier the better.
- 6.** With the memorial completely dry, spray a liberal amount of furniture polish onto the smooth polished surfaces and begin to rub it in with a rag vigorously buffing and polishing the memorial. This will give the polished areas a good shine but most importantly will provide a layer of protection that will last for the year protecting the marker from grime and hard water build up.

Questions regarding maintaining your memorial? Contact Clean Monuments Co. today at [info@cleanmonuments.com](mailto:info@cleanmonuments.com) or call (216) 321-6740 / (800) 278-8523



### Clean Monuments Co.

14025 Cedar Road  
Cleveland, OH 44118  
(216) 321-6740  
(800) 278-8523 toll free  
[cleanmonuments.com](http://cleanmonuments.com)