

## **Basic Gravestone Conservation, Cleaning Process**

A. Assemble the tools you'll need. Take a pic of the gravestone, if you wish, before starting.

1. D/2 in a spray bottle, a pail and a plastic or nylon brush. Buy new and use them only for cleaning gravestones.

2. 2 gallons of water per small gravestone. You'll need water more for large stones.

3. Make sure the brush you use fits comfortably in the pail. Fill the pail with sufficient water to continually keep the brush wet to avoid unnecessary abrasion on the stone.

B. Spray the entire gravestone with D/2. You'll clean all sides - front, back, top and both side edges. Wait 5 minutes before starting to wash the stone to allow the D/2 to be absorbed.

C. Use a new wood or plastic tool, like a chopstick, a wood craft stick or wood paint stirrer to remove the lichen and moss from the gravestone. You can use a wood skewer or a chopstick to clean the lettering and decoration.

D. With a wet brush, use gentle but firm strokes, circular or straight across, depending on the size of the stone. Start at the top and clean down to the ground level, as you would when washing or painting a wall. Clean all sides, not just the front.

E. Rinse the gravestone with water. The areas you missed will be obvious and you can go back to clean that area again.

F. Allow the gravestone to dry before taking a pic of the cleaned gravestone. Spread the word not to use household cleaning products and always ask someone's permission to clean any gravestone.