

# How to remove calcium build-up on headstone

**Q.** How would I get rid of calcium buildup on a headstone? The primary surface is polished and where the engraving is it is rough. The calcium from the hard water has caused a buildup, especially in the rough area. What should I use to get the calcium cleaned out and also calcium film on the polished area. Thanks for your response.

**A.** This will depend on whether the headstone is marble or granite. Here are the procedures for each:

For Marble:

Scrape as much of the build up off as you can with a plastic putty knife. With a good neutral stone cleaner and a white cloth, scrub what remains. Repeat this step until clean. If you must, use a non-scratch white scrub pad. Be aware that aggressive the cleaning methods may produce faster results but also increase the possibility of scratching the polished finish.

For Granite:

Use the same procedure as you would with marble, but you can use a mild acid such as **sulfamic** if the neutral cleaner won't cut it. You can buy this type of acid at most home centers.

Make sure to rinse thoroughly.

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