

*Maine Cemetery Trampers' Companion*

**STONE TYPES**

**Slate** - This is a fine-grained metamorphic rock which is usually some shade of gray but may range from reddish to bluish or greenish in hue. It began as mud and with increasing pressure, became clay, then shale. Slate is noted for being composed of thin, usually fairly smooth, layers which can be easily cleaved apart. Slate is slowly destroyed if water can get between the layers. How well these layers adhere to one another determines the longevity of the stone as the freezing and thawing action slowly breaks up the stone along the layers of which it is composed.

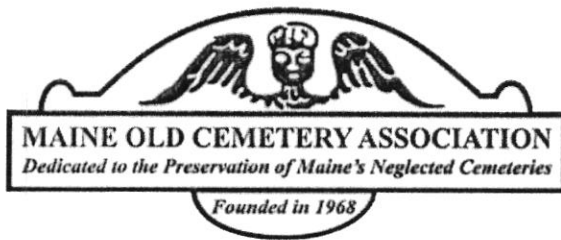
**Marble** - This is a fine-grained metamorphic rock which can be found in any number of colors and hues, though bright white was preferred for marker stone use. It resembles in many ways a block of sugar in appearance, though not in hardness, and is fine to medium-grained. Marble began as limestone, a sedimentary rock, which through exposure to high pressures was transformed into marble. This type of stone is the most susceptible to the increase of acidity in our rain. Many of these stones are now weathering rapidly, having weathered more in the last 20 years than in the previous 100 years.

**Granite** - This is a very hard stone which takes a high polish and is very resistant to weathering. It is an igneous rock which is medium to coarse-grained and comes in a rainbow of colors. It is principally composed of feldspar, quartz, and mica. Granite is now the stone type of choice but was little used in the past other than in some local areas. Very few old granite marker stones are found in our cemeteries other than those used as base stones or curbing.

**Others** - Several other stone types were occasionally used but have a short life in our tough climate.

**Sandstone or Brownstone** - This is a coarse-grained, sedimentary rock which is reddish to brown in color. It is a very soft stone which is composed of rounded quartz grains stuck together by another far softer material. This composition results in the rock being quite porous, allows water to penetrate it, and so it tends to break apart in a short time due to the repeated freezing and thawing to which it is exposed in a typical Maine winter.

**Limestone** - This is a fine-grained sedimentary rock which is white to yellowish in color and quite soft. It was occasionally used to carve gravestones but was ill-suited for this as it is slowly dissolved by water.



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## D/2 Biological Solution

D/2 Biological Solution removes organic growth from most surfaces. It lasts a minimum of five (5) times longer than bleach, peroxides, and powerwashing. D/2 is safe to use near grass and most landscape plantings. It is a safe, easy to use liquid that removes a broad spectrum of biological deposits from hard environmental surfaces. A contact time of only one or two minutes will loosen most fungal and algal deposits with manual scrubbing and is typically sufficient for excellent results.

Growth of bacteria, fungi, algae, lichens, and mosses contributes significantly to the degradation of many types of construction materials, and can be disfiguring. D/2 can be utilized to control this problem on outdoor sculptures, monuments, decorative fountains, gravestones, and tombs. Biological growth found on some individual building features - such as parapets and zones of ground contact - or materials can also be treated with D/2, although it is not a general purpose architectural cleaner.

### Product highlights

- Necessary contact time is only 1 to 2 minutes
- Keeps surfaces clean for a minimum of one year in most cases
- Safe for landscape plantings and grass
- No detrimental effects on masonry
- Non-toxic and biodegradable.
- No special requirements for handling and storage.

### Application Procedures

- Apply D/2 Biological Solution with a pump sprayer.
- Scrub surface thoroughly with a non-metallic, short fibered soft bristle scrub brush.
- Allow the undiluted D/2 to remain on the surface for 1 to 2 minutes, then apply additional D/2 to maintain a wet surface.
- Lightly mist with water and continue scrubbing.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- Rinse with a hose or pump sprayer.
- Heavy biological deposits can be removed by manually scraping using wooden or plastic tools immediately before misting.
- For lighter deposits, D/2 can be diluted with water from 1:1 to 1:4 parts water by volume. Perform small tests to determine whether dilutions will provide effective removal of growth.
- For optimal antibacterial action, dilutions should remain on the surface for 2 to 10 minutes. Apply the dilution(s) as described above: apply, scrub, wait, reapply, mist, then scrub again and rinse. Prepare fresh dilutions daily.

**[D/2 Biological Solution: Learn More](#)**