

Orvus Paste

A safe concentrated gentle cleaner in paste form

Orvus is a sodium lauryl sulfate. It is completely biodegradable, non-ionic, and does not contain phosphates. Sodium lauryl sulfate is a “surfactant” – it removes stains and residues that are oily, so it’s found as an ingredient in lots of surface cleaners. It is versatile stuff and is used to clean vintage textiles, linens, needlework, and quilts. All things very prone to delicate dyes and fibers that must be treated very gently. Orvus paste is very concentrated so it does not take much to clean with.

There are several ways to use Orvus Paste, and you can’t really go wrong with any of them. They are simply a matter of preference.

Orvus Soap

A composite step by step use of Orvus soap for cleaning a grave marker.

Supplies – Lots of water, soft nylon brushes, & Orvus soap.

Step 1 – SAFETY Make sure the grave marker you wish to work on is **STABLE**. Many markers are precariously standing & may fall on someone causing injury or in some cases death. If it is unstable, LEAVE IT ALONE.

Step 2 – A SOUND GRAVE MARKER Make sure the object you choose to work on is not flaking, peeling, or sugaring & is not fragile to the touch. This can be determined by simple sight, touch, & gentle rubbing with the hand. If stone material comes off on your hand, then it will surely come off in greater quantities by applying a scrubbing action with a gentle nylon brush. If this becomes the case, LEAVE IT ALONE.

Step 3 – WET DOWN THE STONE Thoroughly soak down the stone with water. You can never use too much water. Stone is a porous material that needs to take in water to be cleaned thoroughly & safely without damage.

Step 4 – WET DOWN YOUR BRUSH This will help with scrubbing.

Step 5 – APPLY ORVUS SOAP Apply Orvus soap to the pre-wetted brush. Just a small dab will do. Orvus soap is very concentrated & lathers quite easily.

Step 6 – APPLY THE BRUSH TO THE STONE Using a circular motion working from bottom to top, gently scrub the stone.

Step 7 – RINSE THOROUGHLY Rinse the stone from top to bottom with water.

Step 8 – STOP TO SEE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Let the stone dry enough to see how clean it came. You may wish to repeat the process one more time. We recommend no more than twice. Tombstones should only be cleaned every 18 months.

The Bucket And Water Method



Another way that many prefer and find very easy is with a bucket of water and a little Orvus Paste. Fill any given bucket up about 2/3's with water and add a couple tsps. of Orvus into the water. Mix around in the water with your hand until it dissolves, and now you have a bucket of soapy like water. Use with nylon brush until water is dirty, and mix a new bucket. This method also helps you keep your brush much cleaner than the other methods because you can easily rinse your brush out in the bucket.



With any of these methods you will need a nylon brush and a generous amount of water for both scrubbing and rinsing. A 2 to 5 gallon pump sprayer works well for rinsing. You can usually find them for between \$10 and \$20 at most any DIY type store. Finding or brining your own water supply will be hardest thing to figure out.

The Spray-Bottle Method



Rather than apply Orvus directly on a brush or use it out of a bucket, some prefer to premix Orvus and water and bring it with them gallon jugs. Mix the Orvus and water like above in the bucket method, but pour it into transportable containers to refill your hand sprayer with.

No matter which method you choose to use, always keep in mind step 1 and 2 from above concerning SAFETY and A SOUND GRAVE MARKER.