



Graffiti and Tag Removal Treatments for Historic Masonry Materials

The following chart is intended for use by property owners and property managers of historic masonry buildings subject of a preservation easement held by Easements Atlanta, Inc. The following treatments are a general guideline and offer the gentlest method recommended for graffiti and tag removal without damaging historic masonry. If after two attempts of applying the gentlest method listed below, a different treatment will be recommended. Please contact Easements Atlanta for further information.

Historic Masonry Type	Cleanser*	Gentlest Method**
Brick or Terra Cotta (glazed)	Choose non-acidic and non-alkaline	Use a razor blade to carefully flake graffiti tag, apply anionic detergent (i.e., Orvus) with nylon bristle brush, warm or cool water rinse (<300 psi).
Brick or Terra Cotta (unglazed)	Alkaline-based poultice and hydrofluoric acid-based gel	Apply poultice ≤12 hours; hot water washing (<300 psi) and low-strength hydrofluoric acid-based gel.
Precast Concrete (a.k.a. Cast Stone)	Generally, choose non-alkaline	Apply anionic detergent (i.e., Orvus) with nylon bristle brush, warm or cool water rinse (<500 psi); <i>or</i> apply a poultice ≤12 hours under plastic sheeting, remove plastic to air dry, remove admixture with nylon bristle brush, warm or cool water rinse (<500 psi); repeat.
Granite or Marble (polished)	Choose non-acidic and non-alkaline	Use a razor blade to carefully flake graffiti tag, apply anionic detergent (i.e., Orvus) with nylon bristle brush, warm or cool water rinse (<500 psi); <i>or</i> apply a poultice ≤12 hours under plastic sheeting, remove plastic to air dry, remove admixture with nylon bristle brush, warm or cool water rinse (<500 psi); repeat.
Granite (unpolished)	Generally, choose non-alkaline	Hot water washing (<1000 psi) and low-strength hydrofluoric acid-based gel.
Limestone	Choose non-acidic and non-alkaline	Saturate surrounding limestone with water, apply clay poultice ≤4 hours under plastic sheeting, remove plastic to air dry, remove admixture with nylon bristle brush, warm or cool water rinse (<300 psi); repeat if necessary
Previously painted masonry	There are seven properties in EAI's portfolio where portions of masonry are historically painted and repainting the masonry with matching paint is the preferred method. Please contact EAI for more information.	

*Obtain material safety data sheet from the manufacturer and follow all warnings and directions to reduce health and safety risks, and environmental contamination associated with use. Some cleansers require professional use only; check with the distributor and manufacturer.

**Protect all other surfaces during treatment, such as glass and metal; some cleansers may etch glass or corrode metal.