



Blast Off!!!

Media blasting is a term that has several meanings: demolition by dynamite, criticism of major news outlets, or restoration work. Media blasting in the restoration industry has a variety of uses such as cleaning a surface, blasting away fire damage, or deodorizing. Each requires unique surface preparation, cleaning, and stripping. Below are some of the different types of media that are commonly used in the restoration industry along with the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Sand & Grit: Traditional sand or grit media are still used in some surface preparation or stripping applications. Sand or grit such as crushed glass are proficient at removing years of buildup, corrosion from surfaces such as wood ceilings, paint, brick walls, or concrete statues. Removing stain or varnish from wood surfaces, restoring stone walls, and paint removal, grit media are capable of cleaning the surface to leave it natural or to prep the surface for coating. The biggest drawback to grit blasting is the mess it leaves behind to clean up.

Baking Soda: Baking soda has been a staple in the media blasting world since it was used in 1980's to clean the Statue of Liberty. As a household item, baking soda acts as an air or refrigerator freshener, and as a blast media the same concept holds true. It has been found that baking soda works great as a deodorizer and cleaner, therefore making it a natural fit for work such as fire restoration. The substance will not only clean wood joists, brick surfaces, and concrete walls, but will also deodorize the smoke smell to help further restore the surface to its original state. Baking soda can also strip and prep surfaces that are thin, delicate, or ornamental because it is much less abrasive than traditional sand or grit media. One potential drawback in using baking soda as a blast media, is its ability to kill any vegetation in an outside environment due to its acidic nature.

Dry Ice: Dry ice blasting involves either pelleted CO2 or shaved block CO2 as the blasting media. The process works to clean or remove flaking or failing paint and is effective at removing soot and char from joists, wood beams, trusses, and concrete that has been damaged by a fire. However, it is not quite as effective at removing odor like baking soda. Dry ice is commonly used in fire restoration scenarios when the building or residence is still occupied because it creates significantly less dust than traditional dry blasting. Upon contact the dry ice material will evaporate leaving only the waste contaminant. Dry ice is also used in plant environments because there is no contamination of secondary media waste.

Vapor & Water: For projects that call for a cleaning or surface preparation with little or no dust, mediums such as vapor or wet sandblasting, dry ice, or sponge jet blasting will work best. Sponge jet blasting is used with small sponge particles that act to absorb the surface contaminant and remove it from the surface as the sponge particles expand. Vapor or water blasting involves using a water stream, such as a water induction nozzle added at the trigger of the blast hose. The advantage is the low dust since water vapor is emitted instead of other blast materials.

Glass Bead: Glass bead is a blast material often used on surfaces such as stainless steel, bronze, or brass to remove buildup or brighten the existing surface before sealing. Glass bead is less abrasive than traditional grit media. The material is bead shaped and the round edges are better at creating a uniform finish on delicate and thin surfaces, without the abrasive cutting ability that a grit or choused glass media provides.

Dust is often a factor when using dry media blasting, therefore some projects may require containment or dust control measures to limit the dust exposure to other areas. When performing restoration in one area of an occupied building, dust most often needs to be contained to that one area so it does not migrate to other areas of the building. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

May 2016

Events

May 4: CAMO Luncheon
 May 5: ACA Luncheon
 May 5-6: SABOMA Golf Tournament
 May 8: Mother's Day
 May 10: CAI Luncheon
 May 11: SAMA Trade Show
 May 11: AAFAME Luncheon
 May 12: IREM Luncheon
 May 12: SACA Seminar
 May 18: IIASA Luncheon
 May 25: Somerset Education Foundation Golf Tournament
 May 25: SAABE Luncheon
 May 30: Memorial Day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 CAMO Luncheon	5 ACA Luncheon SABOMA Golf Tournament	6 SABOMA Golf Tournament	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 CAI Luncheon	11 SAMA Trade Show AAFAME Luncheon	12 SACA Seminar IREM Luncheon	13	14
15	16	17	18 IIASA Luncheon	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Somerset Education Foundation Golf Tournament SAABE Luncheon	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

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