

SURFACE FINISHING EQUIPMENT GROUP

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Introduction to Abrasive Blast Cleaning DS-3



Surface Preparation is used to remove existing paints, corrosion, oxidization, or graffiti and to give the surface an etch to allow coating adhesion. In many cases Abrasive Blast Cleaning can provide the optimum method of surface preparation.

ADVANTAGES OF ABRASIVE BLAST CLEANING

- Faster than other methods such as wire brush, chipping hammer, or needle scaler.
- Fully Controllable – through the selection of equipment type, abrasive media used, blast pressures, duration of blast, etc. it allows for example a light blast of stonework to 'full back to white metal' preparation of heavily contaminated steel.
- Can be used to both remove existing coatings, and if required give a surface profile etch to ensure a strong bond with the new coating when it is applied.
- Low vibration compared to alternatives methods.

TYPES OF ABRASIVE BLASTING

- Pressure Blast - a pressure vessel using abrasive media is a popular economical and versatile method of blasting for most applications such as removing rust from bridges and other steel structures. Can be fitted with a vacuum system to provide a dustless operation.
- Wet Blast - in situations where dust free or a gentler blast without damaging the underlying surface is required the Satblast unit is ideal. Applications include removing graffiti from stonework, and white line removal from roads, and dustless blasting of steelwork.
- Wheel Blast - used in fixed installations with ball shot to clean andpeen surfaces by impact.
- Suction Blast - used when more gentle cleaning is needed. Requires simpler equipment.

OPEN OR CONTAINED BLASTING

- Open Blast - often used by on-site contractors where the media will not be recovered.
- Blast Rooms - provide a enclosure for containing dusts and collecting and recovering media.
- Blast Cabinets - normally used to blast smaller objects in a contained environment.

BLAST MEDIA

- Expendable Abrasives - these are low cost one use only abrasives.
- Reusable Abrasives - these are initially more expensive can be used several times where collection and recovery is possible.