

Cleaning and Maintaining ISDUP Markers



The care of all markers within your company boundaries are under the supervision of the company board. The company president may identify a marker chairman to be responsible for the maintenance of markers. The company can assign a camp to oversee a marker. The company should know the condition of the markers and the area around the marker should be free of weeds, trash, or other unsightly problems. If the plaques are cleaned on at least an annual basis they will not be difficult to maintain. Tips for cleaning the markers are below.

Cleaning Navalloy Plaques/Markers

Typically, the surface of Navalloy plaques can be wiped clean with soap and water using a soft cloth. However, if there are hard water stains on the marker, a different process will need to be used. The materials you will need are:

Lime Away

3M Scotch-Brite Maroon General Purpose Hand Pad - #7447

Spray bottle with water

Cloths or rags

Cleaning Process

1. Spray marker with Lime Away – let it soak for 15 to 20 seconds.
2. Scrub with the Scotch-Brite pad. Don't be afraid to scrub hard. It will not damage the Navalloy or the wording and pictures.
3. Rinse with water and dry with cloth. You will be able to then see where you still need to do more scrubbing.
4. Follow the same procedure until the marker is clean and completely free of hard water stains.

Cleaning Bronze Plaques/Markers

Remember these plaques are historical themselves. They are no longer made. Below are some ideas to help you clean bronze markers. The materials you will need are:

Water (about four gallons per marker- a 5-gallon bucket with a lid works well for transporting the water to the site)

Vinegar (one cup +)

Baking Soda (approximately ½ cup, enough to have a paste)

Brushes, big and small and a toothbrush

Multiple sheets of 400 grit sandpaper

Sanding block

Polish (any general brass polish like Mothers Brand)

Microfiber towels for cleaning/polishing

Towel for drying marker

A spray bottle filled with water

Helpful, but not required-

Cordless drill

Brushes to fit with cordless drill

Cleaning Process

1. Make a paste mixture by combining baking soda with vinegar. Rub the paste on the plaque and let it sit for 15 minutes. The paste may dry, so use a spray bottle filled with water to mist it to keep from drying.

2. Use your brush to scrub the paste mix. If you have a cordless drill with brushes attached, this is the time to use them. (It will save you some elbow grease.) Do NOT try to lighten the background. Do NOT spray anything onto the plaque as a protective coat.
3. Use part of the water to thoroughly wash off the paste mix.
4. Dip the 400 grit sandpaper into the remaining water and begin to lightly brighten only the tops of the letters. Continually dip the paper in the water during the sanding process. Do NOT use power sander to wet sand the markers. Do NOT sand the background.
5. Once finished with the sanding, use the remaining water to wash off the marker. Use the towel to thoroughly dry the marker. The marker must be dry before starting the polishing process.
6. When polishing by hand, apply a light polish to the yoke and beehive portion of the marker using your rag and polish until the desired shine is reached. Repeat process to obtain your desired shine. Avoid getting polish on the background or between text of the marker. Generally, it is not necessary to polish the text.
7. Finish by wiping off polish residue and enjoying the now readable and shining marker.
8. Check marker annually to ensure the marker is readable. It may only require an annual light polish but if the oxidation has made the marker difficult to read or it has lost its shine, repeat all of the steps.