



finding soda blasting is cost-effective and green. One blaster can now do in less than four hours what once took three to four workers more than three entire days to do.

Chicago Cleans Up

The City of Chicago has waged an all out war on graffiti, and developed an aggressive building maintenance program that actually includes a free 24/7 hotline to report the crime or check the status of a clean up request. In fact, Chicago became one of the nation's first leading cities to actually assume the financial burden for

removing graffiti from private property and businesses. Their program is called Graffiti Busters, and combined with tougher laws and increased enforcement, they plan to eradicate the windy city of this plague.

Before this program, removal of graffiti from privately owned property was left to the individual owners, many of whom were unable or unwilling to undertake this task due to the expense or from fear of retaliation from the vandals. Instead of instituting some form of punishment for property owners who did not remove the graffiti, Chicago has earmarked funds to allow removal of graffiti at no cost to property owners.

The city purchased nineteen soda blasting machines from SodaBlast Systems, LLC of Houston, which has been providing the city with the latest in soda blasting technology.

San Marcos, TX, too, has been wrought with graffiti and a mounting demand from community leaders and businesses to eradicate it. As a result, the city purchased a SodaBlast System a few weeks ago, and the Mayor has committed to the standard of a 48-hour turnaround for removal of

graffiti, which is the key to discouraging new tags.

This mayor is also considering a loan program of the SodaBlast equipment for local businesses so they can get their store fronts cleaned up.

City leaders, facility managers, and even service contractors are choosing soda blasting because they recognize that it is better for the environment and for the community. They are able to save time and money while getting the job done well. The bonus is that SodaBlast Systems offers the perfect GREEN solution tough enough to not only tackle graffiti, but also other building challenges like fire remediation, paint removal, etc. without using harmful solvents or chemicals. Blasters appreciate the lack of exposure to toxic compounds or the need to deal with hazardous waste afterward.

The growing economic pressure to save time and money makes soda blasting worth looking into as it is the kind of investment that can pay for itself quickly.

For more on soda blasting, call SodaBlast Systems at (800) 216-SODA or go to www.sodablastsystems.com. □

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CIRCLE 22 ON READER SERVICE CARD

A Tale of Two Cities

Green Technology Blasts Graffiti from Buildings and Equipment

By SANDY CALDWELL

Undeniably, the blight of graffiti that plagues U.S. cities and the private industries that populate them has grown exponentially over the past two decades. Graffiti costs Americans more than \$8 billion per year in clean up.

To combat it, cities are getting aggressive with graffiti removal programs since studies have shown that by removing the graffiti quickly, it creates a deterrent for vandals, who call their work "Tagging." Studies report that removing graffiti within a 48-hour window is key to prevention.

Less tagging occurs when they realize it will not be up for long. With increasing pressure for cities to also be green, many are using a non-abrasive cleaning and coating removal method that can be safely used on almost all surfaces – soda blasting, which eliminates the need for harsh chemicals and disposal problems.

Graffiti cleaning teams can also save time because the soda blasting technology can clean up to 19 square feet per minute. Facility and maintenance managers are realizing the power of these machines because the possibilities are not limited to graffiti removal. Soda blasting does not cause collateral damage to surface areas, so once-damaged materials or surfaces can be recycled, restored or even reused.

In cases of fire and mold damage, building management specialists choose the soda blasting delivery process because it saves them both time and money by salvaging and deodorizing assets once deemed total losses. The process leaves a fresh, clean surface without a hint of the previous contamination from fire or mold damage. Other blasting methods require a two-step process as they can't eliminate the odor so it requires sealing that odor into the substrate by using a varnish sealer.



From fire and mold remediation to the ability to strip a car in less than one day, soda blast technology has endless applications. It can be done in a fraction of the time of other processes and offers excellent surface preparation for application of anti-microbial coatings.

Service contractors are finding this system has great profit potential by allowing them to expand their services into graffiti removal, fire remediation, and more. The ability to offer customers a green solution that saves time and money makes this a winning proposition for all. Cities, too, are

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**Case Study:
Fire and Smoke
Damage**

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SodaBlast Systems – environmentally friendly and even removes odor. Choose from a variety of systems at a price you can afford.

Results: Eliminate all odors and signs of Fire and Smoke. Restores property in a fraction of normal cleaning time – averages 10-20 sq. ft. per minute - 600-1200 square ft an hour. NO hazardous chemicals or waste.

Media: Use a suitable abrasive for blast pot, from baking soda to multi media capable equipment. No need for Harsh Chemicals or Toxins!

Benefits

- Environmentally safe
- No Toxins or Harsh Chemicals
- Deodorizes
- Faster than normal methods
- Assets can be salvaged
- No residue
- No pre-treat

Applications

- Graffiti removal
- Fire, Mold remediation
- Surface Prep for applying anti-microbial coatings
- Crawl space to equipment – no space too small or large
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- De-coats and cleans substrate in one step

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