

Preservation project saved by SodaBlast systems!

This testimonial and great story comes from an independent contractor who uses our system. One of his projects was a 108 year old farm house whose attic had entertained the town on Friday nights by hosting dances many years ago. This home is currently being resurrected after years of neglect. Bats had taken over the once 'hot spot' dance floor of this historic attic so much so that their excrement had to be shoveled out.

This contractor, Jim Riehl, is a full time pilot responsible for international flights and has a side business of blasting services. Our contractor rented a dry ice blasting machine and was disappointed with his results. He then turned to SodaBlast...

This details some of his daily blasting jobs and the results. This story is in his words. "Next afternoon got rained out of much blasting but did do a small boat bottom (17') removing old anti-fouling paint. The dry ice was too aggressive. I would not recommend dry ice for this process. I did only a small 1 foot square area with the pressure down at about 90PSI and using the large fan fragmenting nozzle from a long way away and eased in closer to the boat. As soon as it started to remove the paint, it also broke through the thin gelcoat and created pin holes. I backed off and tried 2 more nozzles and lower pressure but got the same result. **I then soda blasted the boat at 80 PSI and the paint just disappeared and got no gelcoat breakthrough. Enough said.**"

"Third day was a reschedule of day 2 rain day for a large 1,500 square foot 108 year old farm house attic floor. This is a historical home being renovated by the area's largest renovation company. The attic had been the site of Friday night dances for the entire small village it is in for years, a long time ago. The home had been a bit neglected by ensuing owners, and bats had taken over the attic. ServiceMaster had been contracted to literally shovel up the inches worth of bat feces (guano I think it's called). I had been contracted specifically to dry ice blast this job."

"The floor boards were still discolored and smelled of the urine and faeces (I get some of the loveliest jobs!). Anyway, I set up for ice blasting with my compressor putting out 120PSI and running all 100' of blast hose up the outside wall of the home and through the attic window. The renovation company guys and owners were standing around watching the set up with great anticipation. As we blasted with the fan nozzle, the ice had only good affect on the floor board, not poor but not great. Also, during the 5 hours of blasting the hose became as rigid as a steel pipe about 20 minutes into it and stayed that way for the duration of about 2 hours. What a pain in the 'you know what'.

"I then ran 75' of air line up to the blaster and used just the 20' blast line. It still got as rigid as a pipe and had only a slightly better affect on the floor. We finished about 1/2 of the 1,500 ft in those 5 hours. Embarrassed again, as I told the restoration company and the owner it would take about 4 hours to blast the entire attic floor, and I was basing that on twice the time it would take to soda blast it. We quit and went home. I went back myself 4 days later after I flew a trip and **soda blasted the other half of the floor myself in 1 hour! In fact, I spent another 30 minutes re-blasting the dry ice side to remove the smell!**" Dry ice blasting took almost 5 times as long and did not take care of the smell like Soda Blasting did.

"In between the boat and the attic, I dry ice blasted a bakers rack from a large bakery. It was covered in baked-on protein and oil residue. The ice was ineffective. I tried for 20 minutes with 4 different nozzles. That got me about 10% done. I soda blasted the remaining 90% in 25 more minutes. Perhaps I was just not picking projects that ice was not meant for. I went on to attempt to blast an auto door panel and cast aluminum powder coated patio chair. The ice just did not strip the paint quickly enough to be cost effective. SodaBlasting was 75% faster as opposed to the 25% the speed of dry ice." **Jim Riehl, Independent Contractor**

In conclusion, Jim found dry ice blasting to take much longer and not eliminate odors or stains as well as SodaBlast Systems. If SodaBlast can blast away years of stain and residue from Bats, think what it can do for your project!