

Staples Mobile & Custom Sandblasting

My business is listed as Staples Mobile & Custom Sandblasting, and referred to as Woodstock ProBlast for advertising in the Yellow Pages. We are not just a custom sandblasting company, we like to be referred to as coating removal specialists. We started doing automotive specialty blasting with silica sand which always left a nice white smooth finish. We switched over to try using soda for sensitive panels on restoration project cars, then changed over to using super K , which is a fertilizer product from Sylvyte, both were very dusty, but effective and also friendly to the environment in terms of disposal other then the coating being removed. The soda was ok but no quite aggressive enough on panels at the lower pressures needed for automotive which is around 35-40 psi nozzle pressure. This summer we changed over to a **35-60 crushed glass** to do several older mustangs for our customer who does complete restorations. The crushed glass worked excellent on paint removal, aggressive, and left a nice white finish, after using the **35-60 crushed glass** we would go over lightly with a **fine 90 crushed glass** which left a very smooth profile on all of the panels. Our customer loved the finish for his final prep. This summer we completed all of his vehicles with crushed glass, a happy customer.

Recently we have been going in the building restoration direction. Graffiti has always been our specialty where we use soda, super and or lime, again very dusty, but in short jobs there were no problems. On on of our first complete brick restoration jobs, a 9000 sq.ft. facility in Tillsonburg, the Heath building. We quoted to use lime and started the project. Within the first day we had complaints of to much dust leaving the job site, that was with full water nozzles on the blasting whips. The environment and building inspector shut the operation down until we could correct the problem, MSDS sheets and the coating were not harmful, only the dust etc. leaving the job site that was messy and a nuisance. We struggled all week to resolve a solution. We tried pressure washing, a no way to slow and inefficient. Next was a soda cleaning machine with high pressure water, again too slow and not efficient to clean properly. Another method with a pressure washer and special nozzle to water blast with media , but the coverage was to slow and the fan was to narrow leaving an unsuitable finish. It was the last straw and we were ready to throw in the towel unless the customer agreed to expensive scaffolding and tarp coverage to keep the site enclosed.

I spoke with Joe, my Opta Minerals rep who has helped me with all of our R & D work. He mentioned that a company was doing water towers somewhere in New York with out any expensive tarping and dust collection. Apparently the water with the heavier media, Crushed Glass, would simply fall to the ground to be cleaned up, very little dust, fast and effective coating removal. Well for the last straw, we brought a skid of 35-60 crushed glass to the site and started blasting with full water nozzles. As long as we point the blasting in a downward position on the wall the dust was virtually gone, the mortar and glass simply fell to the bottom of the building to be cleaned up. The square foot cleaning was great, we improved by around 50%, less expensive, MUCH, then lime or soda. The finish was better because we didn't have to dig the surface, so the brick face was not gouged out, and the pointing mortar in between was not as likely to get blown out. WOW! The change in method had saved our project from being a huge loss or over expensive operation. The owners and contractors of the project were very happy with the finished project, and we were out just in time for the window cocking, and mortar contractors to complete their part in the project. Next spring we are aiming at the building restoration to add to the business. From this project we already quoted and had another building project accepted . This time we will rock off the building with no problems, productive and most of all, Profitable.

There is so many areas to use crushed glass. I think it replaces a lot of jobs that silica use to do except it has little or no problem with the environment.

Thanks Opta Minerals, for your technical help and support.

Sincerely

Dan Staples

Woodstock ProBlast
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