

Cleaning and Graffiti Removal on an Amsterdam Brick Building

Maintenance management of an Amsterdam, Netherlands apartment building use Sponge Media abrasives to restore and clean environmental contaminants and graffiti from exterior brick walls



Typical of the early 20th century, a brick apartment building in Amsterdam, Netherlands suffered from environmental contamination. The exterior brick walls and granite blocks of the building accumulated thick, black material and suffered from vandalism.

High pressure wet blasting systems once used to restore the brick and mortar substrate are now being prohibited in fear that associated waste water may contain dangerous chemicals or heavy metal components, which could contaminate surrounding ground water. As a result, Brown Sponge Media™ abrasive, with Dupont® Starblast®, was chosen, by the project contractor, to strip-clean, and rejuvenate the surfaces:

■ **Blasting Controlability** - By varying the blast pressure and media/air mixture, the Brown Sponge Media abrasive was sensitive to the brick and mortar substrate, yet aggressive enough to remove aged, black contamination and graffiti.

■ **Ease of Handling and Clean-up** - The location of the project, in close proximity to surrounding buildings and

pedestrians, required a low rebound, easy to handle medium. The ability to recycle Sponge Media abrasive while blasting meant less accumulation of debris and easier cleanup.

The restoration contractor was able to selectively blast areas of graffiti and discolored brick and stone, with no problems. The optimal blast pressure was between 30 and 45 pounds [2.5 to 3 BAR], with stripping and cleaning rates between four to six feet per hour.



Visit Sponge-Jet, Inc. at
www.SpongeJet.com
or call **603-610-7950**
to learn more about the
Sponge Blasting™ System