

Removal of Lead Paint from Fire Hydrants

Officials from a Maryland County set up a three phase maintenance program to blast municipal fire hydrants using the Sponge-Jet Sponge Blasting™ System.



Officials required blasting and painting 230 hydrants in phase one, and 1,000 hydrants in phase two and three; other municipal hydrants, would be scheduled after the completion of phase three.

Silver Sponge Media™ abrasive was specified for the project based upon key process benefits:

- **Operator Safety** - The suppression of airborne lead particles was critical in the small containment system.
- **Cutability** - The process had to aggressively cut multilayered, 1.6 to 3.2 micron (40 to 80-mil), lead coatings and provide a surface profile.
- **System Mobility** - The system had to be mobile enough to fit down city and residential streets.

■ **Quick Set-up and Clean-up** - Efficient site preparation and cleanup was necessary to blast and repaint ten hydrants per day.

The phase one contractor used the Sponge Blasting System, blasting and repainting eight to twelve hydrants per day. The phase two and three contractor initially used a large recycling-steel grit system, but switched to the Sponge Blasting System after damaging phone lines and landscaping with two, 12 meter (40-ft) trailers.

The contractor switched and used two small utility vehicles and a trailer to transport the Sponge Blasting System, a negative air and filtration system, an air dryer, an air compressor, and an SSPC Class One containment system.

Using proper containment and maximum media recycles, Silver Sponge Media abrasive consumption and waste disposal costs were minimized.



Visit Sponge-Jet, Inc. at
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to learn more about the
Sponge Blasting™ System