

CYCLONE MFG

What are Sandblasters Used For?

Sandblasting uses range from glass etching, paint or rust removal from surfaces, to simple surface preparation. Hence, a sandblasting cabinet is a great addition in any commercial operation, home garage, and beyond. Known also as abrasive blast cabinets or bead blasters, these air powered machines make quick work out of the toughest jobs. However, they also do more than just brute force work.



Glass Etching and Engraving

Carefully harnessing the extreme power of a blast cabinet allows users to etch the delicate glassware surfaces. Thus, the growing wine and craft beer market is an excellent opportunity to invest in a sandblasting cabinet. Many wedding parties also present huge markets for engraved glassware. Lasers and acid washes engrave glass as well, however, nothing replaces the ultra-crisp edges that bead blasting produces. Therefore, investing in a Cyclone cabinet can make your venture into glass etching both exciting and affordable.

Deburring

Drilling and cutting wood, metal, or any material produces pesky little scraps that cling to your work. These “burrs” are indeed pesky, and provide another abrasive blasting opportunity. Abrasive bead blasting equipment easily removes these burrs from a work piece. Above all else, with careful application, the process will not damage to the surface of the piece. Thus, smoothing out the surface and improving the appearance.

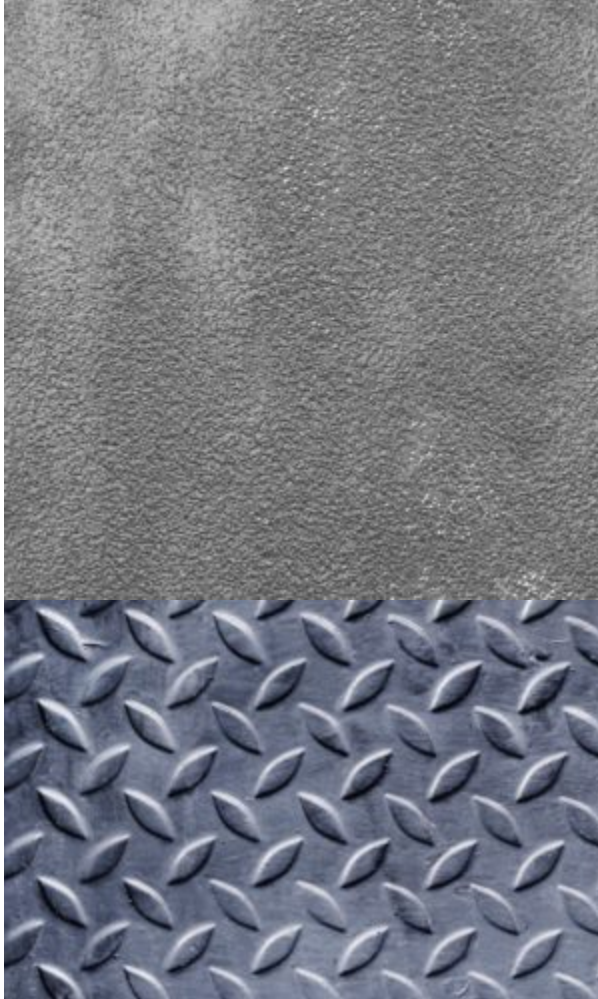


Stone Engraving

Stone engraving is a popular use for media bead blasting (sandblasting). Even though most stone is very hard, exposure to a media blast stream allows the user to carve into the stone leaving behind a beautiful result. Learn more about this use [here](#). Stone engraving markets range from headstones to fundraising events.

Surface Preparation

Applying paint, adhesive, or other compounds requires a properly prepared surface. In some cases, a rough surface is best to improve the application. Abrasive media such as glass beads or aluminum oxide bounces off the surface from an abrasive sandblasting cabinet produces a magnificent surface for applying products/chemicals.



Peening

During abrasive blast cabinet peening, the abrasive leaves the blast nozzle, impacts the part, and mostly strengthens the part. The type of abrasive used to perform this action will greatly determine if you end up peening the piece or deburring the piece.

De-Flashing

Industries that “mold” plastics into shapes, leave residual material that is in excess of the produced parts. This “extra” or flashing is easily removed using an abrasive sandblasting system. A gentle application of an abrasive blast stream toward the product flashing quickly and easily removes the material without damaging the part.



Weld Splatter Removal

During the welding process, it is natural for “sparks to fly” and when they land on a part, they can leave behind small pieces. This “splatter” is easily removed with a media/bead sandblaster without damaging the weld or the work piece. Welding is tough enough, let a Cyclone abrasive blast solution help you with your splatter removal, surface preparation, and more.

Automotive Uses

From upgrading vehicles, prepping for painting, engine rebuilding and so many more abrasive sandblasters are right at home in the automotive industry.



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Sandblaster Troubleshooting, Tips and Tricks

Cyclone abrasive sandblasting cabinets are high quality and American made. Considered by many to be the best abrasive cabinets available at budget friendly affordable prices. Even with high quality construction and engineering, problems sometimes arise. Therefore, we want to make sandblaster troubleshooting as easy as we can for you. As a result, we put the most common support requests we have below. As with any part of our site, please [contact us](#) if you are can't find what you need.

Uneven Blasting Action

Possible Cause: Too much media

Overfilling the cabinet with media can cause the action of the sandblast system to unevenly blast. Try to remove some media from the cabinet and try again.

Possible Cause: Moisture Present in Airline

Moisture in the airline can decrease the airflow and if moisture meets media performance is extremely hindered. If you detect or suspect moisture in your airline, it is easy to install a moisture separator inline to keep things dry. We have many options available for helping with moisture in the airline.

Possible Cause: Pickup Tube Covered

Specifically for siphon fed cabinets, the pickup tube in the bottom of the cabinet is critical. If the top of the tube is covered with media, proper airflow in the sandblast system will suffer. This leads to poor blast performance at the sandblast nozzle.

Possible Cause: Too Much Air

Too much air is another possible cause. Higher pressure does not equal better blasting. Adjust the pressure in the system between 70-90 PSI and adjust as needed up or down to achieve desired results. Too much air can cause the siphon process inside the sandblast gun to improperly operate.

Electric Shocks

Possible Cause: Static Electricity

Static electricity is generated by abrasive particles slamming together in the blast process. The effect will create a minor static shock to the operator when the arms touch the metal cabinet. While not dangerous, it is extremely annoying. This can be solved with a static electricity band part number 2003 available from Cyclone.

Another possible issue is environmental. Lower humidity (dry) conditions in your environment may cause the issue as well. While environmental condition may be out of your control, a static electricity strap can still be added as a possible resolution.

Most cabinets come with unlined rubber gloves. Under most circumstances this is sufficient. We do offer lined gloves that will prevent the electrical shocks from taking place.

Excessive Dust

Possible Cause: Media and/or Media Breakdown

The abrasive blasting process is very dusty. Media eventually breaks down and dust and debris result from the impact of media against the part(s), especially rust and paint. The key is keeping the dust collector bag and filter clean, and frequently changing the broken down media in the cabinet.

Possible Cause: Excess Media in Cabinet

There may be too much blast media in the cabinet. Remove some media from the cabinet.

Possible Cause: Dust Collector System Malfunctioning

Safely empty the dust collector and properly clean any wrap or cloth filters. If proper maintenance is not resolving the issue, it may be necessary to replace the dust collector bags and filters.

Poor Blast Pattern

Probable Cause:

The sandblast nozzle controls the output and shape of the blast pattern. Typically a cone shaped blast, a worn or damaged sandblast gun nozzle will cause issues with your blast pattern. Many options exist for replacement nozzles such as hardened steel, ceramic or tungsten carbide. We carry all options depending upon your needs, let us help you decide if you need help.

The orifice inside the sandblast gun creates the main siphon action in a siphon sandblasting cabinet. The orifice can also become worn decreasing the “power” of the siphon. Carefully open the gun and inspect the orifice

Sandblasting Tips & Tricks

We hope that your experience with a Cyclone abrasive sandblasting cabinet is always good. If your experience is not good, we want to know. Call or email us with any issues you are experiencing. Below are some tips and tricks to keep you blasting longer.

- Using blasting material too long will make performance weak and ineffective.
- Using blast nozzles and orifices too long will make the blast ineffective. Failure to change nozzles and orifices within normal wear times can lead to damage to the blast gun which may lead to the need to purchase an entirely new blast gun.
- Failing to clean dust collector filters often can shorten the life of the motor. The DC1500 has a cloth bag and a cartridge filter. The bag can be washed and reused and the cartridge filter can be blown off with an air gun.
- Faulty maintenance practices may void the warranty.

CYCLONE MANUFACTURING

Sandblasting Safety

Sandblasting is Dangerous

When it comes to sandblasting safety, you must take it seriously. Whether you are new to the process or a seasoned professional, the process is very dangerous. Combining pressure and projectiles is inherently dangerous. Users should always refer to their instruction manual and use all necessary safety measures. It is always up to the user to understand the dangers and take responsibility when using any abrasive blaster.

What's in a Name

Sandblasting is a popular term and is in fact not that relevant anymore. The “sand” in the name is what was once used in blasting equipment. The operation is just like sandpaper on a board. The abrasive smooths and removes surface imperfections. We use the term because of the familiarity – not because of the media in the cabinet.

Abrasive Blast Hazards | Sandblast Safety

Silica, a mineral, discovered in sand used by many to sandblast. Exposure to this mineral causes severe or fatal damage to lung tissue. **DO NOT** use sand in abrasive blast equipment. Some may argue it is safe – Cyclone does not endorse/recommend and has never endorsed and never recommended sand of any kind. The risk is too high. You may see the terms sandblaster, sandblast cabinet, or sand blast cabinet on our site. But Cyclone absolutely *DOES NOT RECOMMEND* the use of any sand in any kind of abrasive blast equipment. There are too many risks and too many safer alternatives.

Abrasive Blasting – A Better Name

Better known as abrasive blasting, the process is also known by many other names. Some people refer to these blast cabinets as glass bead blasters or garnet blasters. You can see the confusion. Abrasive blast cabinets are also known as bead or media blasting cabinets, spelled in various ways: media blasting, sandblast, sand blast, abrasive blasting, the list goes on. Just remember to be careful, read the instructions on any equipment, and contact us if you have questions. Your safety is important to us but your safety is ultimately up to you!

Safer Alternatives to Sand

Glass beads, silicon carbide, white or brown aluminum oxide, and blasting garnet are just a few options. Check out what we have to offer here:

[Abrasive Media Options](#)

