



CASE STUDY

Restoring Two Historical Cannons



Objective: Remove 15+ layers of paint from two cannons



Location: San Francisco, CA

During the Civil War, the U.S. Army built two batteries at a site called Black Point, to serve as back up to **fortifications at Alcatraz**. When operational, the 10-inch Rodmans could fire a 124 pound cannonball **up to 2.5 miles**.

Over a century later, the cannons still stand over the bluff, but were in need of restoration.



One of our contractors had the opportunity to strip the **15+ layers of paint** that had been applied over the years. The two cannons he restored are actually from two different countries, and are estimated to be **240 years old** and **180 years old**.



“He did not expect me to strip it all the way to the bare metal. So we **uncovered a lot of insignia** and different stamps and other stuff that's **never been discovered before** on those cannons.”

— **ROMAN ORLOV**, CASTLE BUILDERS



Technical Details

EQUIPMENT:
DB500 Mobile XL

AIR COMPRESSOR:
185 CFM

BLASTING TYPE:
Wet blasting

ABRASIVE:
28 bags of 40/70 crushed glass

PRESSURE:
140 PSI with a large standoff distance

NOZZLE:
SLV5,
Performance XL #6

TIME:
12 hours (including setup, cleanup, prep, and priming).



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Cleanup Tips

Before getting started, the contractor put down **multiple layers of 6 mil plastic** to catch spent media. That way, his crew was able to **peel layers off**, and clean up media as they worked. Each layer was a manageable weight, as opposed to cleaning up hundreds of pounds of media at the very end.



Pricing Breakdown

TOTAL TIME

(including setup, cleanup, priming)

12 HR

CHARGED TO CUSTOMER

\$5,600

28 BAGS OF MEDIA

(40/70 crushed glass)

\$280

1.5 GAL EPOXY PRIMER

(40/70 crushed glass)

\$180

GARBAGE REMOVAL

(A garbage removal service saves you effort and time during cleanup)

\$160

6 MIL PLASTIC SHEETING

(Large roll)

\$60

14 GALLONS OF DIESEL

(based on average consumption rate and average fuel prices as of 2020)

\$31

TOTAL PROFIT

(Approximate)

\$4,889

IN 12 HOURS



Adding Services

Priming is a great way to **upsell your customer** and make more money on the job.

In this case, the contractor applied a thick epoxy primer using a paint sprayer, which was powered by the compressor on his mobile machine. All Dustless Blasting mobiles **come with auxiliary air connections** to run paint sprayers and other air tools.