

Resetting a gravestone



Joel Hoit stone is leaning forward and tilted to the left.
Determine if stone is stable enough to move for resetting.
Photograph the stone.
Document the inscription and condition of the stone.
Prepare tools and area.



Tools for resetting a stone

Rake, shovel, tamper, gloves, level, loppers,
wood blocks and stakes for braces



Start to careful remove soil around the bottom of the stone
Wear gloves and watch for broken glass in front of the stone.

Use plastic trowel for working close to the stone to avoid scratching it

Place top soil which you remove on a tarp for use later.





After you have removed the soil from around the stone
Carefully lift it out of the hole and rest on wood blocks away from the hole, so it can be cleaned thoroughly without creating mud around the work site



Wash stone with water and a soft bristle brush

Use an approved biocide to remove the biological growth

Rinse, rinse, rinse with clean water

Clean front and back



Remove all large rocks from the site
Large rocks can place pressure on the gravestone
and move it during the freeze/thaw cycle



Prepare the hole which should be slightly wider than the stone and deep enough for one-third of the stone to be below grade

Remove large stones and roots from the hole



Mix pea gravel with sand
Use masonry sand, not play sand which has been washed and can cause staining



Place a small amount of sand/gravel mix in bottom of the hole
This will help to drain water away from the stone



When the site is prepared, move the stone into place
Making sure the stone is facing the proper direction



Set stone and check with a level, front to back and side to side

Begin to fill in around stone with sand/gravel mix

Keep checking the level of the stone as you continue to fill around stone



Tamp down sand/gravel mix and begin to mix in soil as you fill around stone



Use water to help compact the sand mix and soil
Continue to tamp down and fill around stone
Check stone is level as you back fill the site



Replace top soil around stone
Photograph the completed work
and document the process and
treatments used