

ABRASIVE BLAST MEDIA QUICK SELECTION GUIDE

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SINGLE USE SURFACE PREPARATION MEDIA										
Garnet	Excellent 4 – 8 cycles	Very low	Very high	Medium	Excellent		Up to 80um	30 – 60#, 80#	25kg bags 2t bags 1t bags	The nature of garnet makes it suitable for removing a broad range of containments from many different substrates. In addition it provides a high production rate and is compliant with environmental and occupational Health and Safety requirements.
Metallic Slags	Limited 2 cycles max	High	Low	High	Contains heavy metals check with relevant authorities before using		30—50um Produces coarse angular profile which may cause difficulties in achieving even film build over blasted substrate.	.75mm, 1.3mm, 2.0mm	25kg paper bags 1tonne bulk bags 2tonne bulk bags	Has limited use in removing elastomeric or very thick coatings.
Ilmenite	Nil	Very high	Very high	Poor	Some sources of Ilmenite have registered excessive levels of radioactivity				25kg paper bags 1tonne bulk bags 2tonne bulk bags	Main applications for Ilmenite are removing lightly adhered mill scale on new steel and whip blending of sound coatings prior to recoat work.
Crushed Glass	Nil	Very high	Medium	High	Airborne particles are aggressively irritating to eyes, skin and the respiratory system		Very low	.75mm, 1.0mm, 2.0mm	2tonne bulk bag	Has limited use in removing elastomeric or very thick coatings.
Crushed Limestone	Nil	Very high —wet blasting recommended	High	Very high	Can contain high levels of silica check with workplace health and safety authorities before using		Nil	Not applicable—only available in one blend of sizes suitable for particular application	25kg paper bags	Used for removing paint from brickwork and timber and existing coatings from galvanised surfaces.
Staurolite	Nil	Moderate	Medium	Very low	No known problems		Very Low	0.3mm	25kg paper bags	A fine, low-cost abrasive that has limited application for mill scale and light rust removal.
MULTI USE SURFACE PREPARATION MEDIA										
Chilled Iron Grit	Excellent up to 200 cycles	Very low	Very high (dependent on grade)	Very high (dependent on grade)	No known problems.		Very fine to very coarse (dependent on selected size)	G05 (0.12 – 0.3mm), G07 (0.18 – 0.42mm), G12 (0.3 – 0.7mm), G17 (0.42 – 0.85mm), G24 (0.6 – 1.0mm), G39 (0.85 – 1.2mm), G55 (1.4 – 2.0mm)	25kg bags	The hardest and fastest performing of the iron/steel family of abrasive blasting media.
Steel Grit	Up to 1000 cycles	Very low	High (dependent on grade)	Very high (dependent on grade)	No known problems		Very fine to very coarse (dependent on selected size)	GL07/80 (0.18 – 0.42), GL11/50 (0.3 – 0.7), GL17/40 (0.42 – 1.0), GL28/25 (0.7 – 1.2), GL39/18 (1.0 – 1.4), GL46/16 (1.2 – 1.7)	25kg bags	Extremely long-lasting abrasive, longer life than chilled iron, however, 'rounds up' with use, reducing profile and performance.
Steel Shot	Excellent up to 1000 cycles	Very low	Very Low (specialist applications —not suited to corrosion control)	Very Low (specialist applications —not suited to corrosion control)	No known problems		Very fine to very coarse (dependent on selected size)	S110 (0.3 – 0.5mm), S170 (0.42 – 0.7mm), S230 (0.6 – 0.85mm), S460 (1.2 – 1.7mm), S550 (1.4 – 2.0mm), S660 (1.7 – 2.3mm)	25kg bags	Designed for use in airless wheel blast machines; see detailed description in following section for further details.
Silicon Carbide/ aluminium Oxide	Very good up to 100 cycles	Very low	Not applicable—not used for corrosion control applications	Not applicable—not used for corrosion control applications	No known problems		Produces angular profile which is required for anchoring metallic and ceramic coatings.	10#, 12#, 14# 16#, 20#, 24#, 30#, 36#, 46#, 60#, 80#, 100#, 120#, 150#, 180#, 220#, 240#	25kg bags	Used as surface preparation prior to hot metal spraying, plating or ceramic coatings.
SINGLE USE CLEANING MEDIA										
Sodium Bicarbonate	Nil	High (wet blasting recommended)	Medium (dependent on grade —will remove coatings but will not profile substrates)	As above	Use protection against nuisance dust		Nil	Not applicable—different grades focus different formulations rather than different sizing	25kg bags	Main use is for removing contaminants without damaging the substrate.
MULTI USE CLEANING MEDIA										
Glass Bead	Very good	Not applicable	Very good (dependent on size)	Very good (dependent on size)	Used mainly in enclosed cabinets —exposure is limited		Not applicable—used where profiling of substrate is undesirable	A(850 – 600um), B (600-425um), C (425 – 250um) AB (300 – 780um), AC (250 – 150um), AD (212 – 106um), AE (150 – 90um), AH (90 – 44um), AI (<53um), INDA (300 – 106um)	25kg bags	Main use is for coating and contaminant removal on soft surfaces.
Plastic Media	Good	Nil	Very good (dependent on size)	Very good (dependent on size)	No known problems		Not applicable—used where profiling of substrate is undesirable.		50kg barrel	Main applications is for removing coatings from plastic componentry.
Sponge Media	Excellent	Nil—designed to absorb removed containment	Low (where the decision has been made to use sponge media its inherent attributes will outweigh the low production rate)	Low (where the decision has been made to use sponge media its inherent attributes will outweigh the low production rate)	No known problems		Varies dependent upon grade, some use soft media to minimise profile, others contain aluminium oxide for maximum aggression	EMB-MF (maintenance media), EMB-DM (Plastic media), EMB-WM (Walnut media), EMB-AL220 (220# aluminium oxide), EMB-AL80 (80# aluminium oxide), EMB-AL60 (60# aluminium oxide), EMB-AL30 (30# aluminum oxide)	20, 30 or 40 bulk bags	The main benefit of sponge media is it's capacity to absorb dust and containments resulting from the blasting operation.