

# THE KERNEL COB BLASTER



Save time and money removing finishes from logs the earth friendly way without harsh chemicals or messy liquids. Complete with instruction manual, all parts, and hoses needed to operate machine. (Media not included).

Cobblasting is an innovative new way of stripping logs by using “grit-o-cobs” (dried corn cobs), instead of sand. Cobblasting is less abrasive than using sand and can be used as mulch for a garden or around plants when the job is done (if the stripped finish doesn’t contain any lead). Typically with sandblasting the sand has to be hauled away adding extra expense. Cobblasting won’t pit the logs the way that sandblasting will (a light sanding is all that is required so that absorption of stain is more uniform) and so you can save time and expense by not having to sand the logs down so heavily.

## Custom Features:

- Special valve designed for fine-flow spray of cob media.
- Optimizes media flow and protects tank from pressure overload.
- Keeps media dry for superior flow and clog resistance.
- Removes stain evenly and provides a wider stripping range.

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## Tips on Using The Kernel Machine and Abrasive Blasting Media

The Kernel was developed to use corn cob media. There are other types of media, namely walnut shells and baking soda, that have been tested in the Kernel machine. Sand is not recommended, it will damage parts of the machine, and can be hazardous to your health (see regulations section below). Walnut shell media is usually more expensive and more abrasive than cob media, but in your area it might be cost effective to use it. Baking soda works well, but will create more dust and damage plants if not cleaned up. Baking soda has also clogged our machine when humid. Baking soda will strip paint from metal if you ever find a need for it.

There are a variety of corn cob grit sizes available, the sizes you will most often use are: 20/40, 40/60, and -40. 20/40 grit is a good, standard size, you will be able to remove most every coating, but watch that you are not doing too much damage to the wood. 40/60 grit is less coarse than the 20/40, and will work well on brittle coatings, but flexible coatings will waste too much material. -40 grit (the finest grit) is good for removing mill glaze or weathering (which all grit sizes will do), without raising as much grain as the coarser grit sizes. Watch for static electricity when using finer grit sizes. All grit sizes will raise the grain on the wood, but in general, the coarser the grit, the more “fuzzing” (which is not nearly as severe as the “felting” often experienced with power washing) and grain raising.

## Regulations

Each state you work in will have different regulations on the use of abrasive media. Cob media is only regulated based on the nuisance dust it produces. Check each area you work in for the appropriate regulatory measures. Sand media is known to cause silicosis, and there are tight regulatory measures if you want to work with this media.

## Equipment

You will need a 175-185 cfm (cubic foot per minute) compressor to run the Kernel at constant pressure. Start the machine with 60 psi of pressure, and increase as needed. Adjust the choke valve and the media valve to get

a constant (not sputtering) flow. When it is running properly, the media will be slightly discoloring the air flowing from the nozzle. With the compressor running, open the valve at the base of the moisture separator until you hear air hissing out of it. Watch to see that water is dripping out of the open valve, you might need to open this valve more when working under humid conditions.

## Technique

Spray the wood like you would when spray painting. Keep a constant distance from the wood, and keep moving to avoid cutting into the wood. “Feather” the spray in and out of areas to keep a constant look. Always test an inconspicuous area before starting. Corn cob media will not frost or pit glass or aluminum.

## General Tips

Clean off the brass media filter every 5 bags or less if it is humid. If dry, you can go longer. The filters are cheap, and you might want to keep a few on hand. 1 bag of corn cob media will remove 150-300 square feet of coating, based on the type of coating. When finished blasting, close the media valve and blast any residue out of the checks and away from the home. A good shop vacuum will pick up a lot of the used cob media, and the material can be re-used if you filter it. Corn cob media will not hurt the foliage in small quantities, but if you leave mounds on the grass, the media will absorb moisture from plants, so wet down (or have the homeowner soak) the grass when you are done. A good technique is to have one person waiting to fill the pot while another runs the machine. Running the machine on a hot day will wear you out, and you will want to switch duties every few bags.

## Extras You Will Want:

Ear Plugs, Gloves, 2 Monkey Wrenches, 2 Crescent Wrenches, Small Brush, Neoterik MB14-72 HEPA Filter, Air Supply Hood Respirator, and Spare Battery for the Neoterik Respirator.

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