

Sponge Blasting System Cleans 17th Century Chimney

Renovation contractor uses Sponge Media™ abrasives to selectively remove deposits of creosote, pitch and lignum from antique Dutch building.



During a Gorinchem, Netherlands building renovation, the contractor was required by the building architect to selectively remove heavy deposits of creosote, pitch and lignum from the main chimney. The contractor chose Brown Sponge Media™ abrasive in place of wet blasting or hand-tooling to remove the contaminants from the chimney. The contractor made the choice based on the location and age of the chimney and the Sponge Blasting technology characteristics:

- **High Productivity Cleaning** - Sponge Blasting is an air-driven technology, which is often faster than hand-tooling or manual cleaning. The project was completed in just thirty-five minutes, yielding nearly two square feet per minute.
- **Easily Containable** - Part of the chimney was exposed to a busy public street, which meant dust suppression was critical and the entire cleaning process would have to be well contained.
- **Environmentally Safe** - Sponge Blasting is a low dust process. It captures potentially harmful pollutants, lowering risk of exposure to equipment operators and pedestrians.

■ **Controlability** - Unimpaired visibility allowed the blaster to control cleaning performance at the surface, and blast-clean without doing damage to the sensitive substrate.

As a result, the heavy deposits of creosote, pitch and lignum were removed without causing substantial damage to the 400-year old brick. In addition, black stains were removed leaving a completely rejuvenated finish.



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to learn more about the
Sponge Blasting™ System