



HIER WOHNTE
LEO OSCHITZKI
JG. 1892
DEPORTIERT 3.2.1943
ERMORDET IN
AUSCHWITZ

HIER WOHNTE
TONA OSCHITZKI
GEB. BUKOFZER
JG. 1893
DEPORTIERT 3.2.1943
ERMORDET IN
AUSCHWITZ

HIER WOHNTE
ALFRED
OSCHITZKI
JG. 1924
DEPORTIERT 3.2.1943
ERMORDET IN
AUSCHWITZ

HIER WOHNTE
JESKA MARION
OSCHITZKI
JG. 1925
KINDERTRANSPORT 1939
ENGLAND

HIER WOHNTE
JUDITH PAULA
OSCHITZKI
JG. 1936
DEPORTIERT 3.2.1943
ERMORDET IN
AUSCHWITZ

STOLPERSTEINE *Cleaning Guide*

PURPOSE OF CLEANING

Cleaning a Stolperstein is a meaningful act of remembrance. By restoring its shine, we honor the memory of the person it represents and keep their story visible to the public. This small, quiet act is a form of witness.

WEBSITES FOR RESEARCHING STOLPERSTEINE

- [Stolpersteine.eu](https://www.stolpersteine.eu): Official website of the Stolpersteine project by artist Gunter Demnig.
- Stolpersteine Guide (Stolpersteine App): A digital map and database for finding and learning about individual Stolpersteine.
- [Yad Vashem – The World Holocaust Remembrance Center](https://www.yadvashem.org/): Not specific to Stolpersteine, but a major global resource for Holocaust research.
- [Joods Monument](https://www.joodsmonument.nl/) (Jewish Monument – Netherlands): A detailed and moving memorial database for Dutch Holocaust victims.





MATERIALS NEEDED

- Brasso
- Soft, lint-free cloths (e.g., *microfiber or cotton tea towels*)
- Old T-shirts or bed sheets, cut into cloths for polishing
- Soft-bristled toothbrush (*optional, for engraved letters*)
- Disposable gloves (*to protect your hands from polish chemicals*)
- Kneeling pad or rolled towel (*for comfort while working*)
- Small trash bag (*for used gloves and rags*)
- Biography of the person's stolpersteine cleaning (AWC The Hague can share their list with you as an example).



STEP-BY-STEP

Cleaning Guide

Do not clean during heavy rain or snow as the Brasso becomes diluted and can spread to the surrounding sidewalk and stain the surrounding area.

- 1 PAUSE & REFLECT
- 2 PREPARE THE AREA
- 3 INITIAL CLEANING
- 4 APPLY BRASSO
- 5 BUFF & SHINE
- 6 CONCLUDE WITH A MOMENT OF SILENCE





STEP 1.

Pause & Reflect

Before you begin:

- Observe the stone's surroundings—under trees, near busy roads, or embedded in mossy pavement.
- Read the full name aloud. Take note of the home you're standing before; this was likely their last residence.
- If available, read a short biography or take a moment to silently read and reflect on their story.

This moment of reflection connects your action to its purpose.



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STEP 2.

Prepare the Area

- Clear any leaves, branches, or dirt from around the stone.
- Make sure the area is safe for kneeling or crouching.
- Put on disposable gloves to protect your hands from the polish.
- Kneel or sit on the ground to start the cleaning, you can use an old rolled up towel to sit or kneel on, or use a gardeners kneeling pad.





STEP 3.

Initial Cleaning

- Using a dry soft cloth, gently remove loose dirt and dust.
- **Do not** use metal brushes, abrasive pads, or any harsh cleaners, these can scratch or damage the brass.
- For heavily soiled plaques, a soft bristle toothbrush may help loosen dirt in the engraved lettering, but this is usually not necessary.



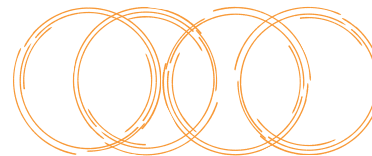
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STEP 4.

Apply Brasso

- Shake the Brasso bottle well before use.
- Apply a small amount onto a section of a cloth (roughly covering two fingertips).
- **Never pour Brasso directly** onto the stone for doing so may stain the pavement or your clothes.
- Polish using gentle, circular motions, covering the full surface of the plaque. Work patiently.





STEP 4. CONTINUED

Apply Brasso

- Let the polish sit briefly (~1 minute), then continue rubbing in circular motions.
- This process may take 5-10 minutes depending on the stone's condition.
- As the cloth turns black, rotate to a clean part and continue.
- Use your fingertip wrapped in cloth to clean around edges and finer details.
- Visually it helps to pretend the square stumbling stone is divided in $\frac{1}{4}$ sections and deeply clean each section, making sure to get around the edges, then move on to another section. Then do larger circular motions focusing on cleaning the written part of the message. If necessary, use a soft toothbrush for engraved lettering, but apply minimal pressure.





STEP 5.

Buff & Shine

- Once the brass is clean, use a fresh soft, dry cloth (such as an old T-shirt) to buff the stone.
- This step removes the remaining Brasso residue and reveals the stone's natural shine.
- Ensure the stone is completely dry before concluding.





STEP 6.

Conclude with a Moment of Silence

After polishing, take a moment to reflect on the transformation:

- Consider the person whose name is now visible once more.
- Think of their life, their home, and the memory you've helped preserve.
- Clean up your supplies. Rags can be thrown away.
- This final pause is an integral part of the experience, it turns an act of care into one of remembrance.



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Thank You

By volunteering to clean a Stolperstein, you take part in a powerful act of memory and witness. These small gestures ensure that those who were taken from their homes and communities are never forgotten.