

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Vapor Blasting?

Vapor blasting is a surface refinishing process used to clean and restore surfaces. Instead of dry abrasive media (used in sand blasting) it uses a combination of water, compressed air, detergents with finer and gentler media to remove oxidized metal and corrosion. The process also seals the pores of the aluminum making it look better longer, leaving it with a much shinier and smoother surface.

What is the Process like?

Typical Process:

- Parts photographed and inspected, any potential issues will be discussed with you.
- Oily or greasy parts will be cleaned in our ultrasonic parts cleaner
- Certain parts or pieces may be taped off
- Parts are then vapor blasted then rinsed with clean water
- Finished parts are photographed before they are packaged up and shipped back to you.

What are advantages of Vapor Blasting over Sand Blasting?

- Vapor Blasting cleans by flow of water and abrasive media, not by sheer force and impact like in conventional dry blasting operations.
- Vapor Blasting eliminates media impingement, providing a peening effect to the surface so parts surfaces stay cleaner longer.
- The water acts as a lubricant or barrier between the abrasive media & the components surface protecting from erosion and distortion.
- Being a liquid process, the Vapor Blast flows into areas inaccessible by other methods.
- No heat is generated that may distort or damage parts.
- Eliminates the need to use nasty chemicals

What kind of part can I send?

We can vapor blast any aluminum, copper, brass or bronze part that can fit within a 20" x 20" tall case. Engine parts, chassis parts for motorcycles or cars. Common items include wheels, cylinder heads, engine side cases, fork legs, brake calipers, intake manifolds and valve covers. Have a question? Call or emails us!

Vapor blasting will NOT affect powder-coated or painted parts.

What type of surface finish is produced?

Depends on what type of metal and how it was formed:
Sand cast aluminum parts have a brilliant detailed finish.
Die cast aluminum parts will have a clean satin finish.

How do I prepare my parts for Vapor Blasting?

Disassemble the parts and remove any brackets, bolts, bearings that you can. Threaded steel inserts, iron cylinder liners, valve seats or pressed-in bearings obviously cannot be removed so we will mask these off before blasting.

Clean and remove the worst of any grease, dirt and gunk before sending your parts. We are happy to do it, but it will increase the turn-around time and expense. Gaskets and heavy sealants must be removed prior to blasting- the blaster will not remove them.

How long does it take?

2-3 days in the shop is standard plus return shipping. If you need the parts expedited, just let us know. We are closed Sunday-Monday so if your part arrives on a Saturday, it will most likely get started on Tuesday.

What does it cost?

The total cost will depend on the size and condition of the item. To save money, please remove all gaskets, bearings or anything that needs disassembled.

Some pricing examples:

- Disassembled Carbs (\$30 ea), Brake Calipers (\$30 ea)
- V8 Intake Manifold (\$100)
- 2 Stroke Single Head, Jug, Cases, Side Covers (\$125)

You will also be paying for return shipping. We ship out everything either USPS Priority Mail or FedEx Ground. Either method will include tracking and insurance of your parts.

What could go wrong?

The vapor blasting process usually results in a very nice satin finish. Most parts look fantastic straight out of the vapor blaster and you can assemble and bolt right on. Some parts will need additional hand finishing to look just right.

Once in a while there are “surprises” hidden beneath old parts. Vapor blasting WILL NOT restore this damage- only let you know it is there. Old metal parts may have scratches, gouges or pits that are made visible by blasting. Unseen cracks or other damage may emerge that were formally hidden by dirt or corrosion.

Some parts of Japanese motorcycle engines were painted at the factory or clear-coated over. Once that is stripped away, imperfections will be much easier to see. You may be able to repair them once you get your parts back. A vapor-blasted part is going to look different than a formerly painted or clear-coated part. You may like it better or continue on to get it re-painted. Vapor blasting is an excellent prep for re-painting surfaces.

Will every speck of corrosion be removed when the parts are returned to me?

Once in a while a spot of old paint or corrosion in a crevice cannot be removed without holding the blast gun in the same area for too long, creating a “hot spot” that is unwanted. Note we will spend more time on the outside of components than we will on the inside.

Oil and fuel passages are masked off to avoid direct blasting as much as possible. Parts are immediately rinsed with water then dried with compressed air. Afterwards, the plugs are removed. We will do our best to get all media rinsed off. However, it is your responsibility to check parts yourself to verify all blast media is removed before you re-install them.

Other Questions

Feel free to call us with any other questions you may have at (317) 535-3700 or email us at lauren@dreyersouth.com.