

Laser Engraving vs. Sandblasting

Sandblasting was first patented in the late 1900s and has had many uses over the decades in a variety of industries. Present day brick sandblasting is a multi-step process where a stencil is created first. Then the stencil is applied to the brick and placed in a chamber where an abrasive material is shot out of a high-powered machine to "blast out" the brick material. The removed brick material creates a deep crevice that is later filled with a contrasting epoxy or paint to make the mark stand out against the brick's surface.

When you first get your new sandblasted brick, it will be beautiful. Initially, the design and the lettering will be crisp and clean. The contrasting epoxy/paint-filled mark will stand out against the surface of the brick. However, the filler will begin to deteriorate after even a season's worth of exposure to extreme heat or cold, the sun, rain or snow. If you have an indoor installation, exposure to the drying effects of a building's heating and ventilation system will also degrade the filler material.

The sandblasting method is more complex and much less durable. To achieve a contrasting mark, the material of brick blasted out of the surface leaving a deep groove. The etched out area of the brick is then filled with an epoxy or paint to create a contrast on the brick surface. Over time, these added materials weather and break down, leaving an unclear, deteriorated, and in some cases an unreadable mark.

Newly Sandblasted Brick



Even a newly sandblasted brick has flaws (missing ink in the top leg of the "F")

That once beautiful sandblasted brick will lose its epoxy or paint filler making the design and message unclear and difficult to read without the contrasting material. Dirt will get embedded in the now exposed crevices. Money will need to be spent for time and labor to clean out the dirty brick crevices. The exposed lettering and design can also become a hazard for heels from shoes and for those using assistive walking devices like canes and walkers.

Sandblasted Bricks After One Year (Wall Installation – No foot traffic)



Sandblasted Bricks After One Year (Walkways with foot traffic)



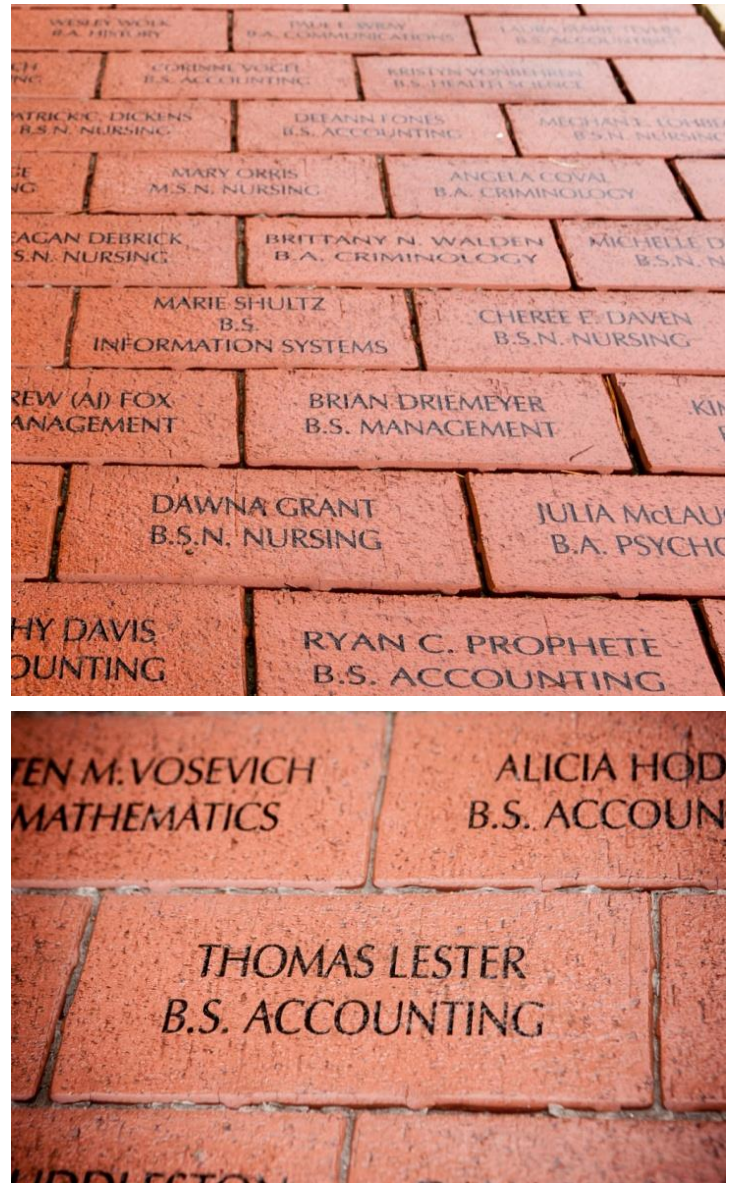
Laser Engraving

Our laser engraved bricks are more durable and are safer than sandblasted bricks. We permanently engrave bricks with our unique laser technology. What happens in the engraving process is called laser vitrification, or just vitrification for short. The laser directs an intensely hot beam onto the brick's surface and changes the composition of the clay into a dark, glass-like mark that stands out on the engraved brick or etched tile. For our customers, this means endless possibilities because we can offer a wider variety of creative ideas by adding clipart, artwork, custom graphics, logos, signatures, depictions and fonts to your custom engraved brick or tile designs.

Laser Engraved Bricks Installed in 2008 (Photographed in 2013)



Laser Engraved Bricks Installed in 2005 (Photographed in 2013)



Laser Engraving Process

Laser engraving is a natural and permanent process. The laser beam interacts with the brick, changing the composition into ceramic by intense heat. This process is also referred to as laser vitrification. *The engraved laser mark on the brick is smooth, hard, and adhered permanently to the surrounding brick material.* No paint, ink or epoxy fillers are added to achieve contrast. The brick laser marking process has been tested for durability for harsh weather conditions.

Picking laser engraving will guarantee a high-quality and far superior product than any of the engraving or etching processes in the market. Contact us today at 1-855-BRICKS4U to speak to a member of our team and to get started on your project.

Laser Marking is Maintenance Free

In the best interest of our customers, Fundraising Brick has chosen to use laser engraving exclusively because we feel the product to be superior quality product over sandblasting and other processes. Unlike sand blasting techniques, laser vitrification does not produce a cavity which attracts dirt, debris and invites erosion due to the inevitable freeze-thaw cycle in some harsh climates. Also, as the sandblasting process deteriorates, it can leave large gaps on the surface which can be a danger to small heels on ladies' shoes, or to walking canes or other self-assist devices. The laser vitrification image is not affected by ultra-violet light, and is completely resistant to fading. Unlike other brick engraving processes, such as sandblasting, this low maintenance product requires minimal care. Simply wash away dirt and debris to expose a crisp, undamaged mark. The mark will never lose its clarity or quality.

A Brick Can Be "GREEN"

Laser Engraving is a natural and environmentally responsible option when revitalizing your community. No additives. All natural. Long lasting.

What are you looking for? Decide for yourself! Make the best decision for your organization's campaign (or program?) and its donors

Advantages	Fundraising Brick's Laser Engraving	Sandblasting	Pantographing
Permanent Mark	•		
Cost Effective	•	•	•
Intricate Graphics	•		
Maintenance Free	•		
No Fading	•		
Lifetime Warranty	•		
Crisp & Fine Detail	•		
Paint, Epoxy, Grout Fill (Not Permanent)		•	•
No Fill - Permanent Mark	•		
Hardened Glass Adhered Permanently to the Brick Surface	•		
Engrave on Clay and Concrete Materials		•	•
Environmentally Safe Green Technology	•		