

Headstone Installation Do-It-Yourself

Things needed

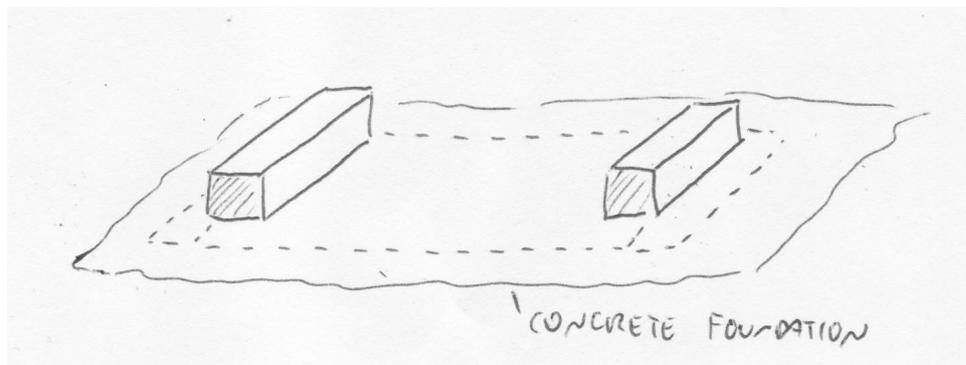
Crowbar
Cement
Bucket
Trowel
Broom
Sponge
Rubber Gloves
Flat wooden wedges
Blankets or pieces of old carpet
Rubber pieces from the tube of a car tyre
Small spirit level

Dowels (The dowels can be made of reinforcement steel not wider than two thirds of the diameter of the holes drilled in the monument. To measure the length of the dowels you will have to measure the depth of the holes drilled for keeping the monument in place. We recommend subtracting 10 mm of the total length you come up with. This is to make sure that the dowels fit when you install the monument.)

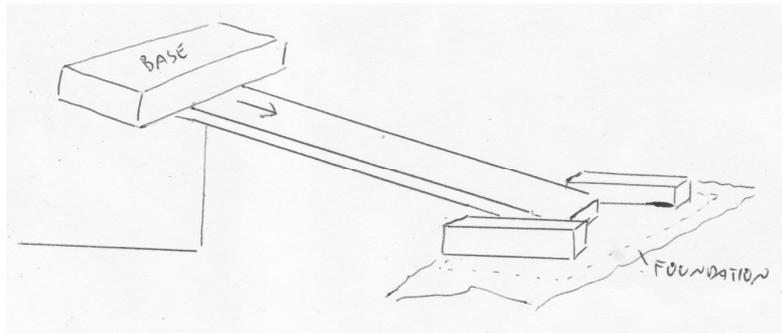
Installation Procedure

The base and headstone needs a concrete foundation/fringe. The foundation/fringe has to have at least the same measurements as the base and needs to be level.

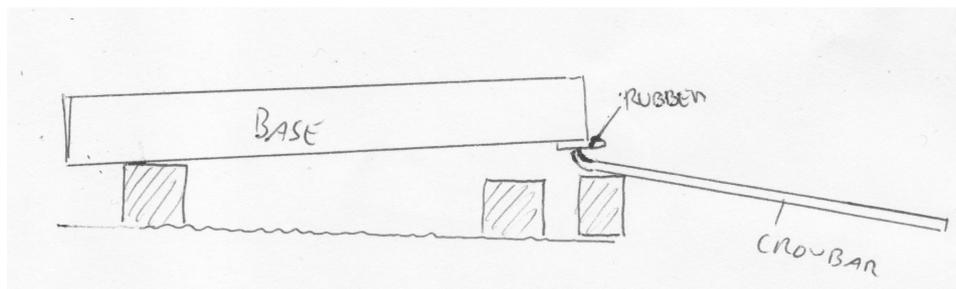
- Remove fallen leaves and other debris from the foundation/fringe using a broom
- Draw the outlines of the base on the foundation/fringe to show where the monument will be installed. Watch out for the alignment and distance in regards to other monuments that are already installed.
- Place two wooden boards as supports on the outlines as depicted.



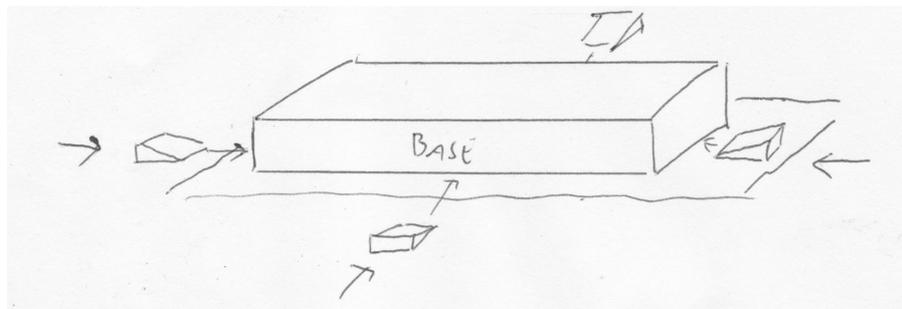
- Slide the base from the transportation vehicle on the supports using a ramp. The ramp can be a long wooden board that is strong enough to carry the weight of the stone. Remove the ramp when the base sits safely on the supports.



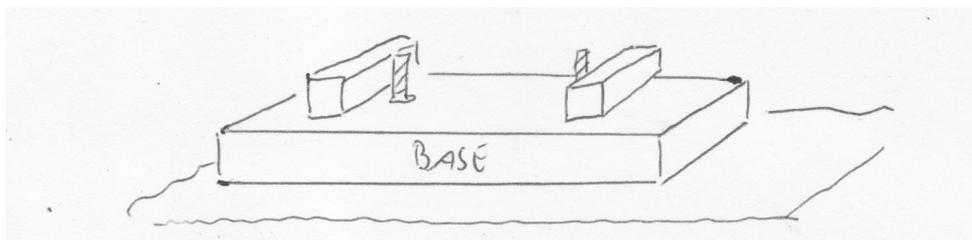
- Flip the base on the support so that you can see the surface that will be connected with the foundation/fringe. Moisten this surface using a wet sponge. Also moisten the surface of the foundation/fringe
- Mix some cement. Spread the cement on the foundation keeping within the outlines of where the base will be placed.
- Flip the base back to its original position
- Drop the base on the foundation by using a crowbar as depicted. Put a rubber piece between the base and the steel of the crowbar to protect the edges of the stone. Watch your fingers doing this. The base will squash the wet cement underneath so that it oozes out on the sides of the base. Do not care about the mess. The excess cement will be removed later.



- Adjust the position of the base so that it sits exactly on the outlines drawn on the foundation/fringe. The base should easily slide on the wet cement underneath.
- Lock the base into position using the wooden wedges from all sides so that it can not move when you are going to install the headstone on top of it.



- Slide the base half ways from the transportation vehicle to the base using the ramp again. If the back of the stone is polished make sure that the surface does not scratch. This can be prevented by covering the ramp with pieces of old carpet.
- Rotate the headstone on the ramp so that the headstone faces the right direction when placed on base.
- Moisten the inside of the holes of the base. Fill them with wet cement.
- Moisten the inside of the holes of the headstone. Fill them with wet cement using the dowels to push the cement in.
- Push the dowels into the holes of the base.
- Place two wooden boards as supports left and right of the holes as depicted. The boards have to be slightly higher than the height of the dowels sticking out of the base.



- Slide the headstone from the ramp on the supports. Put the headstone into upright position. Remove the ramp.
- Moisten the surface of the base and the surface between the holes for the dowels on the headstone.
- Spread wet cement on the base where the headstone will be placed on.
- Drop the headstone on the base by using a crowbar. Put a rubber piece between the headstone and the steel of the crowbar to protect the edges of the stone. Check that the dowels slip into the headstone easily. Once again: Watch your fingers doing this.
- Adjust the position of the headstone so that it sits parallel to the back of the base and has an even distance to the left and right side of the base.
- Use the spirit level to check if the headstone stands perfectly upright. If the headstone is slightly tilted drive a wedge in the join between base and headstone to correct the situation.
- Fill the gaps of the joins between foundation/fringe, base and headstone with wet cement using the trowel.
- Scratch excess cement away using the trowel.
- Moist the sponge with clean water and wipe the excess cement away. To protect your skin wear rubber gloves doing this. Sometimes the cement even gets into the lettering. If necessary make sure to clean them as well. The cleaning has to be repeated several times using fresh water. A remaining thin film of cement can be easily removed with a dry cloth once the surface of the headstone has dried.

