

# HOW TO MAKE HOMEMADE HALLOWEEN TOMBSTONES

1. **MATERIAL.** Get the base styrofoam material, either the BLUE or PINK home insulation panels



These are 8 feet in length and can run about \$30 BUT **they make a dozen or more tombstones.**

- B. If you want a cheaper option, get the generic white Styrofoam



panel:

2. **SHAPE.** Decide on the shape of your stone. Examples:



3. **CUTTING THE FOAM.** You can cut the shapes with

- i. A very sharp knife. Use a see-saw action and CUT SLOWLY as to not break the foam. Running the knife rapidly will break off foam pieces.
- ii. Or an electric foam knife. This has a thin wire that heats up and 'cuts' by melting the foam like buttah.

4. **ENGRAVING EPITAPHS.** (if needed) Some tombstones have epitaphs (words on the stone). Decide on your lettering Either:

- a. RAISED letters or
- b. ENGRAVED letters

Either way you will print these from your computer word editor.

EPITAPH EXAMPLES:



On your word editor, just print as large as possible. (below white is the paper, black is the ink. More later)

**HERE LIES  
UNCLE DAVE  
HE CHASED A BEAR  
INTO A CAVE.**

## PAINTING

Note: Spray paint will dissolve Styrofoam. Do this outside in a well ventilated area.

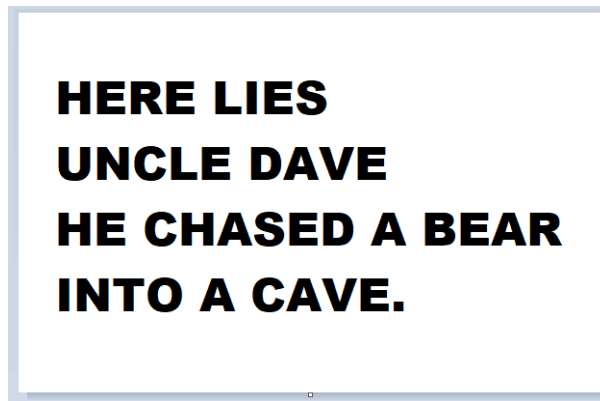
Now decide if you want RAISED lettering or ENGRAVED lettering. In the example epitaph print out above, use an exacto knife to carefully cut out the letters.

NOTE: BE SURE NOT TO DAMAGE ANY PART OF THE PAPER, BOTH LETTERS AND PAPER SURROUNDING THE LETTERS.

You want perfect letter cutouts. Now...

### a. ENGRAVED LETTERS

- i. For engraved letting, take the full sheet of paper with the removed letters



- ii. Spray the back with spray adhesive/glue  
(NOTE: for RAISED letters you will NOT spray the paper sheet. See option b. below.)



found at Walmart or any hobby store.

- iii. Apply the sheet to the center of the stone.



- iv. Take some paper to tape around the stencil to prevent over-spray onto the stone.



- v. PAINT. Use spray paint (any color) and it will dissolve into the foam, creating your 'engraved' look.

- vi. Now you can accept this 'damaged' look for the letters or You can further enhance the definition by using a wood burner pen to make sharper edges.



(again , any hobbie store)



Or the other epitaph option:

## **b. RAISED LETTERS**

- i. For raised letters, you will use the letters themselves NOT the white sheet of paper. DO NOT GLUE THE WHITE PAPER SHEET, instead, temporarily tape down the white sheet (shown black) Then glue each individual letter (white) and place it in its space on the paper.



- ii. Remove the sheet of paper, leaving the letters on the stone.
- iii. Spray paint the area, thus dissolving the area AROUND the letters making them 'raised'.

When finished with lettering, (option A or B) remove all paper to seal the stone in protective latex paint.

## **5. WEATHERING (physical)**

After the paint, you can age the stone (weathering) by taking a knife and scrape lines/scratches into the foam.

Cut small divots into the edges to simulate chipping/breakage thru time.

Or use the wood burner pen to cut deeper lines.

## 6. PAINTING

### a. BASE COLOR

Once finished with spray paint lettering, we then 'seal' the stone with an indoor Latex paint. It doesn't matter what color. This protects the foam from further spray paint.



### b. PRIMARY COLOR

Once you've fully coated the stone with latex paint, we can then use spray paint again to the correct stone color and then weather it. Use various gray tones of spray paint to get the stone to its primary color.



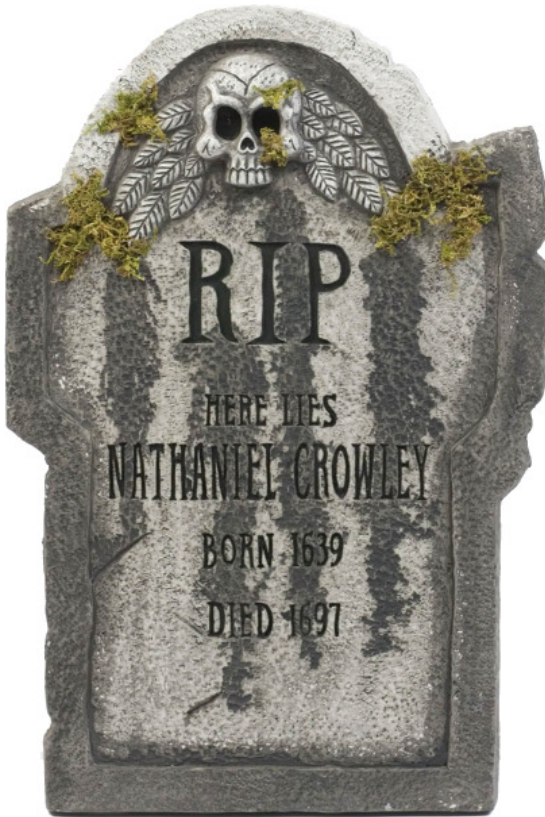


**i. WEATHERING (paint)**

Once the base color is dry, use a paint brush and mix up a muddy / dirty color. (use a watery acrylic , or diluted spray paint, or latex paint)

Apply a watery batch of your color to the top and let it flow downward.

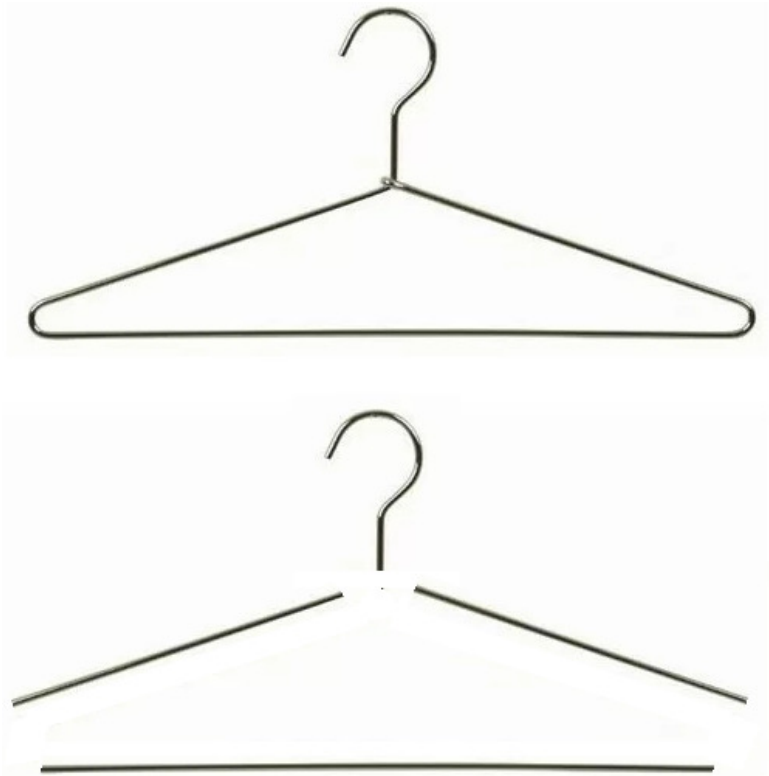
Do the same for each letter too.



You can also glue 'cutout' skulls or carve out patterns BEFORE THE latex paint phase.

## 7. DISPLAY

- a. To display your stone in the yard, take a wire coat hanger, and cut out the STRAIGHT parts.



- b. Insert 2 straight wires HALFWAY into the base of the stone.



- c. Then put the stone in your yard.

DONE