

Re: suggestions on cleaning siltstone matrix from massive pyrite clump?

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- *From:* "will1" <wille1@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 27 Apr 2006 15:49:17 -0700
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Try using a high pressure water sprayer (wand). You might be able to rent one from a local equipment rental outfit. They can do amazing things to clean and shape mineral specimens. Will E.

"J. F. Cornwall" <JCornwall@xxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:B254g.32423\\$ZF.8475@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:B254g.32423$ZF.8475@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Not sure if this link will take you there, but I have posted a photo of a clump of pyrite crystals embedded in a siltstone matrix over in the alt.binaries.photos group (titled "Pyrite in matrix" if the link below doesn't work)

<news://news.central.cox.net:119/FW44g.32415%24ZF.25881%40dukeread10?part=1.2&type=image/jpeg&file>

What I'm interested in is suggestions for ways to remove the siltstone matrix from the crystals. I have tried soaking the thing in vinegar for days, just in case the matrix was calcitic, but in the end I had to resort to scraping it out with a small sharp chisel. Any other ideas?

I'd love to have more crystal exposed on this sample.

Jim