

Pressure Washing Tips and Instructions

1. **Choosing nozzles and/or tips** . For using pressure washer efficiently you need to choose the correct nozzle and/or tip. The majority of our machines come with interchangeable spray tips that serve two purposes. One is to lower the pressure and draw the detergent; and the other is for high pressure rinse at the different spray angles. Our pressure washers come with several color-coded tips/nozzles (red, yellow, green, and white) that vary from 0 degrees to 40 degrees. As a general rule the smallest angle delivers the most powerful "punch." For example, if you want to remove a stubborn smudge from your driveway you will use a 0 degree angle. However, if you want to move debris (such as leaves, sand, etc.) away from your house you will use a wider angle such as 25 or 45 degree nozzle. Caution: be sure the nozzle/tip is completely attached before using the trigger gun. Failure to do so may result in the tip becoming the projectile and may be lost or it may damage the property and/or harm persons.

2. **Using chemicals**. Use only chemicals and pressure washer cleaning solutions that are approved for pressure washer use. Our pressure washer comes with the detergent injector, which allows for continuous, uninterrupted flow of the cleaning solution into the water stream. If you buy unapproved detergents they may not be environmentally friendly and they may be dangerous for pressure washer components. One solution might work well for the concrete, but it could harm the wood.

3. **Testing the power**. Test the pressure washer for its power. The best is to start spraying few feet away from any object. Slowly bring your wand to 3 to 4 feet distance from the surface you want to clean. Move your wand side-to-side a couple of times and check if the surface is clean. If additional cleaning is needed, move your wand gradually closer to the surface (approx. 1-2 feet). The reason for the gradual cleaning is because pressure washers are extremely powerful and if you start too close you could damage the object instead of cleaning it.

4. **Planning what to clean**. Be careful when spraying around windows, postage box, flowers, vents, eaves, or light fixtures. They can break or become damaged if aimed directly at them. In addition, keep the trigger gun pointed downwards so that you don't spray under the siding. This will prevent the siding from collapsing. Also, be cautious when cleaning the edges around the windows. Small, unnoticeable holes can leak water inside your home. In order to prevent this check for any holes, dents and scratches on the frame of the window.

5. **Pressure washing**. Pressure washing is similar to painting. If you get into "happy mode" you may start spraying everything and everywhere. These random power wash sprayings are not thorough and detailed, they will make you miss spots and you will waste your time by cleaning places twice. To overcome this, spray horizontally with smooth left to right movements. In one strike cover 3-4 feet wide area. To prevent streaking, start from the bottom and work your way up to the top.

6. **Pausing before rinsing.** Since you used the cleaning solution, you have to give time for it to do its job. You should allow 5 to 10 minutes for the detergent to start dissolving the dirt, but do not let it sit too long so that it dries out. When ready to rinse start at the top and work towards the bottom until entire area is detergent free.

Do's and Don'ts When Power Washing

- DO read all instructions and safety precautions posted on the washer.
- DO wear proper eye, face and hand protection when operating the equipment and power washing.
- DO attach nozzles and/or accessories completely before starting the machine.
- DO keep hands and feet clear of the cleaning nozzle at all times.
- DO consider using a special cleaning agent if the surface shows heavy dirt and grime.
- DO follow the equipment manufacturer's directions with respect to distance between the spray head and the surface -- typically 12" to 18" while power washing, although this varies with the PSI and spray width settings. (Moving too close may harm the surface; staying too far away may be ineffective.)
- DO work from the top of the wall to the bottom, rather than vice versa. Otherwise, dirt and mildew will run down over the already-cleaned section.
- DO direct the water at a downward arc when cleaning wood substrates. Spraying wood head-on can damage the siding.
- DO power-wash the surface thoroughly.
- DON'T fill the fuel tank while the engine is running.
- DON'T leave the nozzle in a closed position for more than a minute or two while the equipment is running. The pump may overheat.
- DON'T try to repair a leak in the hose or connection while the system is under pressure.
- DON'T aim the power washer at an upward angle when cleaning lap siding. This can drive water behind the siding. Also, the force of the water can lift the siding from the wall.
- DON'T spray stucco, brick or masonry walls straight on. The force of the spray can cause water to penetrate cracks in the walls and cause damage within.
- DON'T aim the spray at windows or glass doors. The force is strong enough to shatter them.
- DON'T let the machine run for several minutes without pulling the trigger.
- DON'T point the wand to an animal or a person during the power washing process.

Pressure Washing Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) will help you understand some of the basic concepts of our pressure washer. This list will help both new users as well as those that need to brush up on their current knowledge about pressure washers.

Nozzle Usage:

0° - red nozzle: Narrow and powerful stream of water. Used for very difficult to remove stains, caked mud, tough dirt.

15° - yellow nozzle: Uses a small angle of spray for focused cleaning. Good for somewhat difficult to remove dirt.

25° - green nozzle: Uses a medium angle of spray for washing sensitive and soft surfaces (deck, fence, aluminum etc.)

40° - white nozzle: Largest angle of spray used for cleaning surfaces quickly and for rinsing.

65° - soap (black) nozzle: Soap tip is used in conjunction with the cleaning fluid. This is the only nozzle that can be used with cleaning solutions.

Choose the correct size spray nozzle.

What chemicals can be used?

Use only cleaning solutions that are power washer approved.

Why can't chemical injection be used under high pressure?

Applying chemicals in low pressure has two advantages. First, if the chemicals were applied in high pressure, they will splash off, resulting in wasted solution. Secondly, because chemical injection only works in low pressure, you can change from low pressure to high pressure at the wand, instead of going back to the unit to engage chemical injection.

Can I use bleach in my pressure washer?

NO! You must NOT use any household bleach with our machine. By using them you will damage the seals and o-rings in the gun, wand, hoses and pumps.

Can I use hot water with my pressure washer?

NO! Hot water can cause damage to the o-rings and pump.