



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

(Pressure washing)

[11/7/23]

[Rob Byers]

Objective:

To provide a comprehensive guide for power washing surfaces, ensuring effective cleaning and preparation for subsequent painting while prioritizing safety.

Scope:

This SOP applies to all personnel involved in power washing activities. It covers the preparation, setup, process, completion, training, safety precautions, and monitoring aspects of power washing.

Responsible Personnel:

- Power washing team members
- Supervisor for equipment inspection and troubleshooting
- Homeowner communication representative

References:

- Pressure washer manual and guidelines
- Relevant safety regulations and standards

Procedure:

1. Preparation:

- Assess the current condition of surfaces to identify damaged or problem areas.
- Clear work areas by moving items away from power washing zones.

- Cover or mask stationary items susceptible to damage from high-pressure spray.
- Use drop cloths to protect flowers and shrubs from potential damage.
- Ensure all sensitive items are cleared from the work area, seeking assistance for heavy objects.

2. Setup:

- Position the pressure washing truck with the hose reel facing the house if applicable.
- Set up the machine centrally to optimize hose length, avoiding damage to surroundings.



- Check oil levels and top off fuel before starting the machine.
- Lay out hoses with consideration for homeowner landscaping.
- Connect water hose and pressure hose, selecting the appropriate tip for the task.
- Turn on the water hose before starting the machine, ensuring water runs through to eliminate air.
- Power on the machine and begin washing, never running the power washer without simultaneous water flow.

3. Process:

- Power washing is for cleaning surfaces and can be used to strip loose or peeling paint.
- Exercise caution on softer surfaces like sheetrock and stucco to prevent damage.
- Use the zinger (or oscillating) tip for peeling paint, avoiding damage to the substrate.
- Start washing from the top trim to the bottom to prevent dirty water and debris from settling.
- Gradually move the nozzle closer to the siding to avoid damage, avoiding direct streams into the substrate.
- Lightly rinse dirt from windows, avoiding over-washing around windows and doors.
- Do not directly spray window screens with high pressure or zinger tips.
- Rinse off all surfaces with dirt or paint chips, consolidating chips for easy cleanup after painting.
- Thoroughly clean up all dirt and debris post-power washing.
- Troubleshoot issues by starting at the tip and working back to the machine.

4. **Completion:**

- Inform the homeowner of the completion of power washing.
- Advise the homeowner to check outdoor outlets and reset the GFI switch, especially if water may have tripped outdoor outlets.



Training:

Ladder safety and fall protection training are required for all personnel involved in power washing.

Safety Precautions:

1. Read the Manual
 - Familiarize yourself with the pressure washer's manual and guidelines.
2. Protective Gear
 - Wear safety glasses, gloves, and non-slip footwear.
3. Equipment Inspection:
 - Regularly check the pressure washer for damage or wear.
4. Ventilation:
 - Use the pressure washer in a well-ventilated area.
6. Fuel Safety:
 - Handle fuel carefully and refuel in a ventilated area.
7. Nozzle Safety:
 - Use the appropriate pressure nozzle for the task.
8. Pressure Setting:

- Adjust pressure based on the surface being cleaned.

9. Distance:

- Maintain a safe distance between the nozzle and the surface.

10. Avoid High Pressure:

- Be cautious on fragile surfaces to prevent damage.

11. Ladder Safety:

- Use a stable ladder and have a spotter if working at a height.

12. Surface Stability:

- Ensure stability on slippery surfaces with non-slip footwear.

13. Protect Nearby Items:

- Cover or move items near the work area to avoid damage.

15. Power Disconnect:

- Turn off and disconnect the pressure washer when not in use.

17. Emergency Preparedness:

- Know emergency shut-offs, first aid kits, and have an emergency plan.

Monitoring and Measurement:

Feedback will be given from the crew following up to the painting job.

Distribution:

This SOP is applicable to anyone involved in power washing activities.





Tools, Tips and repair parts located inside the truck tool box.