



Pressure Washer Safety

Mechanical pressure washers use increased water pressure to clean surfaces and can cause injuries when not used properly. The following key points should be implemented to reduce the risk of injury:

- Read the operator manual to become familiar with the equipment.
- Never use a pressure washer unless you have been properly trained.
- Inspect the machine before each use per the manufacturer requirements, and assure that the safety devices are working and in place.
- Never use a gasoline-powered washer indoors or in poorly ventilated areas. Exhaust gases like carbon monoxide can build up and overtake you or others in the area.
- Use required personal protective equipment (PPE), such as:
 - Coveralls or pants
 - Shirts with long sleeves
 - Rubber boots that are above ankle high and slip-resistant
 - Heavy work gloves
 - Eye and face protection with goggles and face shield
 - Ear plugs or muffs
- Other, optional PPE may include hard hats for working below overhead hazards, sunhats, rain gear, reflective clothing when working around traffic, sun screen and proper hydration when working in the heat.
- Follow manufacturer requirements for scheduled maintenance. Only authorized personnel can work on equipment.
- Never work on hot or running equipment.
- Always turn off the machine before working on it. Follow your company's lockout procedures.
- Inspect the pressure washer for loose, broken or damaged parts. Replace parts as needed.
- Ensure that others are not working within 30 feet of you. Direct spray away from people or animals.
- Use extension cords rated for wet conditions and connected to a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Always reduce pressure before turning off the equipment or adjusting the spray pattern or tip.
- Rotate washing with other duties or with co-workers to reduce exposure to repetitive motion injury.
- Never rush. Injuries can be prevented when you take the time to do the job safely.

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