

Work Instruction : Pressure washing

Introduction:

Pressure washing is an efficient method of washing outside areas. For hard to remove debris e.g. bird droppings pressure washing will have a better end result than a hand held hose, and use less water in the process.

Scope:

This work instruction encompasses the use of Pressure Washers which are utilised by Charles Sturt Campus Services Ltd.

Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to provide CSCS Ltd cleaning staff with a reference tool and guideline for using Pressure Washers.

Safety Guidelines:

Read SDS for appropriate chemical before using

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NB: Always assess each job for dangers and hazards. Never place yourself or others at risk. If unsure please contact Supervisor prior to commencing work.

Recommended Equipment:

- PPE
- Recommended chemical
- Pressure washing machine
- Attachments
- Detergent

Safety tips.

- ❖ Use correct Posture and movement techniques.
- ❖ Assess the area for manual handling hazards.
- ❖ Access to first aid kit.
- ❖ Before pressure washing always ensure that you have signposted areas that need to be e.g. **door entrances**.
- ❖ Ensure you do not wet any plant, machinery or power sockets.
- ❖ When releasing plug from wall socket always disconnect power by switching "off" at the wall socket, then grasp the plug and remove do not pull by the lead.
- ❖ PPE Gumboots and safety glasses.



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Procedure:

Process step 1

Assess

Work schedule for frequency

Area and identify hazards (report any issues - refer to CSCS Injury /Hazard/ Incident Report Form)

Check safety of equipment

Source recommended equipment

Procedure

Step1.

Wheel machine to your starting point, ensure both tap and machine have a male connection on them to attach garden hose. Attach garden hose to both tap and machine by pushing the female connection into the male connection.

Step2.

There are two (2) hand pieces; decide which one will be needed for the task.

- For normal use e.g. spraying concrete
- Hand piece has an adjustable spray nozzle with a finer spray for more delicate surfaces.

To change hand pieces pull release button trigger under the handle this will disengage the lock, unscrew handle piece in an anticlockwise direction until the end of thread appears then pull connections apart.

Step3.

The pressure hose is then connected to the machine and handle piece, do this by pushing the end connection into the machine connection and screwing in a clockwise direction repeat this procedure to connect the other end of pressure hose to handle piece.

Step4.

If you are using detergent fill reservoir tank at the back lower part of the machine with the desired amount detergent, the amount of chemical that is needed can be regulated by a control adjuster located under the on off button. Most operations will not require detergent use in that case disregard the chemical reservoir.

Step5.

Turn water pressure on at tap (ensure tap is fully turned on).

Step6.

Connect power lead to inlet and switch power on.
Check safety switch is working

Step7.

Press on off button to the **on** position, squeeze trigger to release water pressure keep the trigger on during the spraying process.

Step8.

For level surfaces point the spray jet at the ground, moving in a forward motion spray the area immediately in front and to each side of you. Continue this until you have run out of pressure hose

length, at this point you will need to move the machine to the point you have just finished and continue on.

Step 9.

When you have completed task turn water off at the tap then switch power off and pull power lead from socket, wind power lead up and place over the appropriate holder. Disconnect all hoses and drain water from them wind the hoses up in a tidy manner. Wipe machine over with a damp cloth and store away.

Seven easy steps of pressure washing and surface types

Step 1

Always keep the nozzle in motion, spraying at a steady speed and using long, even strokes. Take multiple passes over heavily soiled areas. Take care not to dwell on one spot for too long, especially when using narrow, high-pressure spray patterns.

Step 2

Hold the spray wand so that the nozzle distributes the spray pattern across the surface evenly. Holding the nozzle at too low an angle can cause an uneven spray pattern, resulting in "zebra striping." Also, maintain a consistent distance between the nozzle and the cleaning surface to ensure consistent results and help flush dirt and debris from the area.

Step 3

Work in identifiable sections, such as the area between the expansion joints in concrete. If there is a slope, work downhill to promote drainage and help flush away dirt and debris. Wet entire surface to prevent streaking.

Step 4

When pressure washing lap siding or wood, keep the spray pattern within the width of one to two boards.

Step 5

To prevent streaks on vertical surfaces, such as fencing and house siding, always begin pressure washing or applying cleaning detergent at the bottom of the surface, then work upward.

Step 6

When rinsing vertical surfaces, start at the top and work downward. Gravity will help the clean water flush away dirt, debris, and detergent residue, in addition to preventing streaks.

Step 7

To clean out-of-reach surfaces, such as the second story of a house, use a narrow spray pattern to propel the water stream up to the surface. While enough cleaning power will remain to be effective, the spray pattern will be somewhat inconsistent and may require multiple passes. Stand behind and to the side of the spray to avoid getting wet and make sure to widen the spray pattern as you work downward.

Handy Tips:

1.

BASIC CLEANING

Pressure washing is quite simple: firmly grasp the spray wand with both hands, depress the trigger and move the nozzle spray across the surface to be cleaned.

2.

USING DETERGENTS

Pressure washing alone is enough to clean most surfaces, but for stubborn stains or mould and mildew, the use of cleaning detergents can help make cleaning easier and more effective

References:

CSCS Online Induction Series

[Home - Charles Sturt Campus Services - Charles Sturt University Staff Resources](#)