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Tips to avoid freezing up your pressure washer

High pressure pumps, hoses, fittings, and heating coils can all become expensive mistakes if water is left in them with your wash unit exposed to sub-freezing temperatures. The Water expands as it freezes, causing the internal parts to rupture, warp, bend or distort. If you suspect you may have frozen up your pressure washer, do the following steps:



- 1. Get the wash unit in a heated area and insure it is completely thawed out.
- If gas driven, leave the unit in the off position and pull the start rope to turn over the pump, If electric, briefly cycle the unit on and off. Look to see if the pump turns freely, and listen for any clicking, grinding, or clanking noises.
- 3. If there is any unusual noises get it to a service center to avoid further damage. If it seems quiet and smooth, hook water up to it and turn the water on without starting the unit and look for leaks. If there are no signs of freeze damage after completing the steps above, start the unit up with water to it and see if you have full pressure with no pulsation present. Shut off the unit immediately if you hear any odd sounds. Don't attempt to operate the pressure washer until it's serviced.

How to Winterize a Gas Powered Pressure Washer

- 1. Disconnect the high pressure hose, gun, and wand from the pressure washer. With the high pressure hose stretched out flat on the ground, point the wand straight up in the air while holding the trigger open on the gun which will allow all water in the wand and trigger gun to gravity flow down in to the hose and out the hose end. Once all water has back flowed out of the gun, start at the gun end and roll up the high pressure hose while the water continues to run out of the hose end.
- Start the pressure washer as normal without a water connection. Spray the nozzle for a few seconds until the water stops flowing. Quickly turn off the pressure washer to avoid damaging the internal parts.
- 3. Next you have one of two choices;
- A. Use a blow down fitting assembly which allows you to screw the assembly in where the garden hose hooks up and use an air compressor to purge water from all pump parts, fittings, and the heating coil if present.
- B. If your pressure washer has a float tank, fill the float tank with anti-freeze. Turn the pressure washer on while keeping the float tank topped off and run it until you see anti-freeze coming out of the discharge port of the pump, or if you have a heated unit, the discharge port of the coil. If you have a cold gas drive or a small electric pressure washer, hook up a bottle of Pump Savor Plus. Once screwed on to the garden hose inlet fitting of the pressure washer, open the ball valve and either bump start the electric unit or pull the rope in the off position of the gas drive to introduce the anti-freeze into the pump until you see it coming out of the pump discharge port.



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Terry Lee Bosma, President, Pressure Services Inc.

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