



Cleaning Tips for Wash Bays and Contract Cleaners

Presoaking the surface at a controlled dilution rate instead of applying soap under high pressure or with an adjustable low pressure injector allows you the ability to control usage rates, chemical costs, and by doing so, provide consistent cleaning. Using the proper chemical not only speeds up the cleaning process, but can save money by reducing labor. When you visit a self-serve or automatic car wash notice that the presoak (not high pressure soap) is applied at low pressure. This is to regulate the chemical strength and provide consistent results.



The chemical is applied stronger by mixing it with less volume of water (gpm) to achieve better cleaning results when removing stubborn road film, bugs, or if degreasing. You can prove this by conducting the following test. Run your automatic dishwasher with hot water but without detergent. The results will be less than desirable. Now, run it again using detergent and see the results.



For most detail shops, car washes, and mobile washers, chemical costs run up to five percent of gross sales, labor accounts for 30 to 45 percent, and fuel for heat is two to four percent. When chemical and the cost to heat water for the pressure washer are reduced, labor costs increase due to the additional time it takes to clean. Chemical and the fuel for hot water are cheaper than labor.

Work smarter – not harder!

Hot water pressure washers will clean better than cold water units.

Depending on what you are cleaning you may not always need a hot water pressure washer. The viscosity of oil and grease thin out and dissipate when hot water is used. During cold winter temperatures it is crucial to heat the surface temperature of what you are cleaning with hot water in order to get the soils and ice to release.

Chemical also becomes more active when combined with hot water. Look at how many cleaning processes use hot water to enhance cleaning. Aqueous based parts washers, carpet shampoos, dishwashers, clothes washers, car washes, and showers just to name a few. You can prove this by conducting the following test. Wash your oily or extremely dirty laundry in a clothes washer. Use detergent, but without hot water using cold water only. Anything with stubborn oil or grease stains will not come out as clean as if hot water was present.

Use soft water if possible.

Virtually every car wash we have ever installed or toured uses water softeners. Portable wash units many times utilize brine exchange tanks that provide soft water. Using soft water will save wear and tear on your equipment. When hard water calcium deposits (scale) form they are extremely hard and jagged.

The hardened scale can cause restrictions in heating coils, and effect parts such as unloader valves, pump valves, O-rings, and swivels. Secondly, you reduce the amount of chemical used because the chemical does not have to combat the minerals in the water before getting to the minerals on the surface you are trying to clean.

Terry Lee Bosma, President, Pressure Services Inc.

Terry

At Pressure Services Inc. we value your business as a customer. We hope you have found this article to be helpful and please give us a call when you need anything related to power washing equipment, accessories, or chemicals 1-800-666-3664 or find us on the web at;

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