

The Importance of Maintaining your Pressure Washer

If you want a good experience with the pressure washer you purchased, it is important that you properly maintain it so that it is always working at its fullest potential. This will also extend the life of the unit. Here are some tips as a guideline...



- Always clean your pressure washer and accessories after every use. After each use suck water through the chemical line to rinse it out. During freezing temperatures however use a recommended pump type anti-freeze so it will not freeze while stored. Anti-freeze the entire water and chemical portion of the pressure washer to avoid damage. Proper storage will help to keep your unit in good condition.
- Ensuring the spray tip is in good condition is crucial to the performance of a pressure washer. Ensure you have the right size tip. Too large of a tip lowers your operating pressure. Too small of a tip causes water to by-pass and eventually channel the seat of your unloader valve. If a spray tip is plugged do not drill it out or use a file to clean it. This can potentially modify your spray pattern and if the orifice gets enlarged it will lower your pressure. Replace your spray tip every 6 months to a year based on usage as the high pressure water will erode the orifice size causing a drop in pressure.
- Ensure all of your connections, fittings, hoses, wand, quick couplers, and tips have no leaks. A leak on the high pressure side causes a loss of flow through the spray tip, which in turn causes a loss of pressure due to the loss of flow.



- After starting up the unit squeeze and release the trigger a few times. If it springs back into place then your trigger gun is working correctly.

This also cycles the unloader valve to remove any air and to insure it is not sticking which can cause damage to your pressure washer. Always replace the spray gun if water is leaking from the handle or if you can press the trigger when the safety latch is engaged.

- Ensure you have a garden hose washer installed with a screen and the O-rings in your quick couplers are not leaking and in good condition. The screen is what keeps debris from entering the water pump and causing damage. Change your pump oil every 50 hours. Always use the oil that was recommended for your unit. If you do not have an hour meter on your unit, estimate your usage. If you use the washer once a week for an hour, plan on changing oil once a year. If the oil is ever milky looking, get it to a service center as your oil seals are bad.
- If your pressure washer is engine driven, change the engine oil according to the owner's manual. Pump Oil and Engine Oil are different; do not attempt to use the same oil for both. Change your spark plug and air filter once a year or as recommended.

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Terry Lee Bosma, President, Pressure Services Inc.

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