

## SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

### Task/Equipment Description: High Pressure Water Cleaner
















#### Potential Hazards and Risks:

- Awkward posture
- Water pressure
- Muscle fatigue
- Slips, trips and falls

**DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been trained in its safe use and operation.**

### Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE ✓	Gloves	Hearing Protection	Head Protection	Eye Protection	Eye (UV) Protection	Safety Footwear	FaceVisor / Welding	Dust Mask	Half Face Mask (P2)	Breathing Appartus	Hi-Vis Apparel	Full Body Clothing	Harness
													
	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other PPE  
(describe):

### ALWAYS

Check condition of equipment prior to using and report any faults or defects immediately

Ensure work area is free of other workers / pedestrians etc.

Ensure all safety guards are in place before operating

Ensure that work area is adequately ventilated

### NEVER

- Never use this equipment unless you have been trained to do so.
- Never aim hose jet at another person or at your own body parts or hold finger over nozzle
- Never Refuel equipment when engine is running
- Never clean asbestos with high pressure water
- Never pull the hose
- Never operate whilst standing on a ladder, scaffold or platform tower
- Never let the machine run dry

*This document does not replace training; it is provided as a guide to the safe use of this type of equipment. Refer to the manufacturer's manual or training documents for further information. This is a non-specific document and must be assessed against your particular brand of equipment and the working environment. Where necessary a Task Specific Risk Assessment should be undertaken.*

## Safe Operating Procedure:

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### 1. Pre-Operation – Safety Checks

- Check all parts for any damage before use - alignment of moving parts, binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, mounting, tyres and any other conditions that may affect operation
- Do not use if machine requires maintenance or if guards are damaged/missing. Check hoses for splits/damage regularly as constant dragging across concrete surfaces can abrade hoses
- Use spray lances with cushioned handles to reduce fatigue by minimising vibration and triggers that require minimum force to ease grip pressure
- Do not operate the engine in a confined space where exhaust fumes can collect. Use in open, well-ventilated area only. Exhaust is hot – keep clear
- Caution: moving parts/high pressure/noise. Wear appropriate PPE including suitable eye and ear protection and enclosed non-slip waterproof footwear. Do not wear loose clothing, gloves, or jewellery. Tie back long hair
- Place safety signs in prominent areas
- Check immediate work area before each use for hazards. Remove all objects such as rocks, broken glass or rubbish which can be thrown up or become entangled in the machine

### 2. Operation – Safety Procedure

- Read all **manual and instructions** before using high pressure cleaner. Be familiar with the controls. Know how to start and stop the unit and bleed pressure quickly
- Clear area of all personnel. Do not operate if workers or others are nearby
- Use grab bars to move machine around the work area. Ensure tyres are correctly inflated to reduce force required to push gurney around and aid ease of movement
- Do not turn power on until water is flowing to machine. Maintain water pressure. If machine doesn't operate correctly turn off immediately and seek help
- Pick up the cleaning lance and ensure it is pointing away from people or equipment
- Ensure firm footing and hold the handgrip and spray lance firmly in both hands whilst in operation. Use of spray lance requires repetitive hand movements and grip in combination with reaction force
- When cleaning, do not direct the nozzle at people, animals, electrical components, wiring, lights, window seals etc. as pressure can damage paint work and softer items (e.g. skin, feet, tyres, window seals)
- Stay alert and exercise control. Hold the lance strongly - high pressure cleaner jets produce a powerful reaction force. Adjust the jet to suit the type of cleaning being undertaken to control reaction force
- Do not operate machine when you are tired. Do not rush. Take short breaks to relax tensed muscle groups, share the task or complete it in stages to prevent strain, sprain, muscle overuse and to minimise the effects of vibration and fatigue. Alternate cleaning between high and low areas to reduce back flexion and neck strain from working above shoulder level when cleaning high objects (eg. buildings, tall vehicles)
- Swap grip and stance from left to right regularly to reduce muscle overuse and uneven force across the body
- Never leave machine running while not in use or unattended. Turn the power off. Don't leave the machine until it comes to a complete stop

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### 3. Post-Operation – Housekeeping

- **Press the trigger to release any remaining pressure in the system**
  - Store the handgun and spray lance in the accessory point and store appropriately
  - Before cleaning, refuelling, or inspecting shut off the engine, make certain all moving parts have stopped and allow unit to cool. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the plug to prevent accidental starting
  - Always leave unit clean, dry and tidy (free from grease and debris)
  - Ensure machine is secured when transproting
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