



© ADOBE STOCK

## (Pressure) Wash Up

Whether you're planning to list your house for sale or just tidying up for warmer weather, pressure or power washing can make quick work of big-time outdoor dirt.

You can use a pressure washer to clean up dingy sidewalks, walkways, driveways, garden structures, fences and the exterior surfaces of your home.

You can either purchase or rent a pressure washer from your local home center or hardware store. Carefully read all the instructions that come

with the machine and make sure you're using the right pressure for the job.

### GET WASHING

After you've got everything safe, cover any plants to protect them from spray and detergents. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for preparing any detergents you're using. Use a garden sprayer to apply the detergent before you scrub the surface with the washer. And remember to spot test! With the detergent and mildewcide, work from the bottom up

and scrub with a brush, especially if it's been a while since the last washing.

Pressure wash from the top down, using the psi and spraying angle recommended for your surface. Keep a three-foot distance between the end of the sprayer and the surface to keep from causing damage. If you're washing siding, hold your arms up as high as you can while still keeping your balance to make sure the water doesn't go under the siding.

### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Wash Safely

Because of the high pressure involved, pressure washers can be dangerous household tools. Even a wound that might not seem serious at first is likely deep and can become infected. There also can be electrical and fume hazards. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the following tips for staying safe while working with a pressure washer:

- Never point a pressure washer at yourself or others.
- Never attempt to push or move objects with spray from the washer.
- Never use a gasoline powered washer in an enclosed space.
- Always test the ground fault circuit interrupter (circuit breaker or outlet) before using a pressure washer.
- Always plug a properly grounded pressure washer into a properly grounded receptacle.
- If an extension cord must be used, keep the pressure washer's power cord connection out of any standing water, and use a heavy duty extension cord with components rated for use in wet locations. Keep both the power cord and extension cord connections as far away as possible from the item being washed and away from any water runoff.
- Wear rubber-soled shoes that provide some insulation when using the pressure washer.
- Never cut or splice the pressure washer's power cord or extension cords.
- Never remove the grounding prong from the pressure washer's power cord plug or the extension cord.
- Always have a qualified electrician check the pressure washer for electrical problems after it has tripped a circuit breaker.
- Never allow children to operate a pressure washer. Keep children at a safe distance when an adult is using a pressure washer.

### CLEAN UP

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and preparing the machine for storage. Take up any plastic sheeting or tape covering plants, windows and outlets. If you're planning on painting your house, wait two days for it to completely dry before picking up a brush.





© ADOBE STOCK

## (Pressure) Wash Up

Whether you're planning to list your house for sale or just tidying up for warmer weather, pressure or power washing can make quick work of big-time outdoor dirt.

You can use a pressure washer to clean up dingy sidewalks, walkways, driveways, garden structures, fences and the exterior surfaces of your home.

You can either purchase or rent a pressure washer from your local home center or hardware store. Carefully read all the instructions that come with the machine and make sure you're using the right pressure for the job.

### GET WASHING

Cover any plants to protect them from spray and detergents. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for preparing any detergents you're using. Use a garden sprayer to apply the detergent before you scrub the surface with the washer. And remember to spot test! With the detergent and mildewcide, work from the bottom up and scrub with a brush, especially if it's been

a while since the last washing.

Pressure wash from the top down, using the psi and spraying angle recommended for your surface. Keep a three-foot distance between the end of the sprayer and the surface to keep from causing damage.

If you're washing siding, hold your arms up as high as you can while still keeping your balance to make sure

the water doesn't go under the siding.

### CLEAN UP

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and preparing the machine for storage. Take up any plastic sheeting or tape covering plants, windows and outlets. If you're planning on painting your house, wait two days for it to completely dry before picking up a brush.

### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Wash Safely

Because of the high pressure involved, pressure washers can be dangerous household tools. Even a wound that might not seem serious at first is likely deep and can become infected. There also can be electrical and fume hazards. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the following tips for staying safe while working with a pressure washer:

- Never point a pressure washer at yourself or others.
- Never attempt to push or move objects with spray from the washer.
- Never use a gas-powered washer in an enclosed space.
- Always test the ground fault circuit interrupter (circuit breaker or outlet) before using a pressure washer.
- Always plug a properly grounded pressure washer into a properly grounded receptacle.
- If an extension cord must be used, keep the pressure washer's power cord connection out of any standing water, and use a heavy duty extension cord with components rated for use in wet locations. Keep both the power cord and extension cord connections as far away as possible from the item being washed and away from any water runoff.
- Wear rubber-soled shoes that provide some insulation when using the pressure washer.
- Never cut or splice the pressure washer's power cord or extension cords.
- Never remove the grounding prong from the pressure washer's power cord plug or the extension cord.
- Always have a qualified electrician check the pressure washer for electrical problems after it has tripped a circuit breaker.
- Never allow children to operate a pressure washer. Keep children at a safe distance when an adult is using a pressure washer.

### HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

**Quiet title suit:** a lawsuit brought by an owner of real estate for the purpose of cancelling, wiping out, and putting a quietus upon supposedly immaterial, inconsequential, and unenforceable claims and interests that cloud the owner's title.

SOURCE: Homeclosing101.org

## AD SPACE