

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Injuries, including bruising and flesh wounds from pressurised water



Inhalation injury, burns, skin irritation from cleaning chemicals



Slip injuries from wet floor surfaces



Trip injuries caused by trailing cables and hoses



Back and muscle strains from manual handling



Electric shock as a result of contact with faulty equipment

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?



Visually inspect equipment and cable for any damage or defects, such as burn marks or frayed cables before use



Remove any water residue and leave the area as dry as possible

Pressure washer

Safety Task Card
STCGE 18

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

1. Only use a pressure washer if you have been trained to do so.
2. Pressure washers should be used when pedestrian traffic is minimal.
3. Do not carry out the task when the temperature is low, and run-off could freeze.
4. Erect warning signage before starting and where appropriate use barriers or signage to prevent unauthorised access. Additional signage is required around stairs.
5. Wear appropriate PPE, including safety goggles, waterproof clothing, high vis vest and suitable footwear, such as reinforced toe capped safety shoes or wellingtons.
6. Follow the safety precautions in the COSHH Task Card for the chemical being used. This includes wearing PPE such as protective eyewear and gloves.
7. Implement manual handling practices when moving equipment.
8. Pressure washers should always be used in conjunction with a residual current device (RCD).
9. Use the nearest electric power socket to reduce the length of cable and minimise trip hazards. Pay particular attention when working near stairs.
10. There must be no strain on the cable and connections.
11. Always keep cables behind you and away from the area being cleaned.
12. Use the lowest pressure suitable for the task being carried out, to prevent unnecessary aerosols.
13. Do not point the nozzle in the direction of electrical equipment, distribution boards, fuse boxes and sockets, or fragile surfaces.

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.

Pressure washer continued

Safety Task Card
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Safe System of Work

14. Never point the nozzle at any part of your body or at any other person.
15. Do not use the pressure washer to move or push objects.
16. Do not leave equipment unattended in a public area.
17. When finished disconnect the equipment from the mains electrical supply and release any remaining pressure.
18. Equipment must not be connected to the mains electrical supply when assembling or cleaning it.
19. Where appropriate remove water residue with a dry mop.
20. Remove all barriers and signage once the task has been completed and the area is dry.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.