

SAFE WORK PROCEDURES HIGH PRESSURE CLEANERS



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. High pressure cleaning should be carried out in an area isolated from other workers, or steps taken to prevent exposure of persons to the cleaning process.
2. Persons should not operate high pressure cleaners unless they have been instructed in the hazards and the means of safe use of the equipment.
3. All persons using high pressure cleaners are to use personal protective equipment appropriate for the task and the equipment used.

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. Preparation	Electric shock Skin irritation Burns, risk of fire	Care must be taken to ensure that electric leads are kept out of water, and preferably above ground. Follow manufacturer's instructions when adding cleaning agents to cleaners. Exercise caution when igniting gas or oil burners on steam cleaners.	Safety switch or RCD must be used. Wear eye and hand protection. No smoking in vicinity.
2. Operation	Foreign matter in eyes Skin irritation Burns Slips and falls Noise	Water splash will contain cleaning agent and foreign matter from article being cleaned, which may splash back towards operator. Overspray and splash back will result in operator's clothing becoming wet with contaminated water from cleaner. Protect hands from hot water and heat from lance. Keep work areas clean – remove grease and other matter from floors. Larger units and steam cleaners may generate unsafe noise levels.	Wear goggles or face shield. Wet weather clothing and waterproof footwear required. Wear PVC gloves. Wear hearing protection.
3. Risks to other persons	Splashing	The distance that water will be ejected over depends on the shape and velocity of the water jet. Exclusion of persons other than those actually involved in the cleaning task should be made to prevent injury from water and water-borne particles and cleaning agents.	Provide screens around work area to prevent accidental spraying. Prevent unauthorised entry into area where cleaning is being carried out.
4. Maintenance	Moving parts Burns	Unplug machine from power supply before carrying out maintenance. Allow machine to cool down and/or wear gloves in vicinity of hot parts. Repairs to high pressure components and electrical systems must be carried out by suitably qualified and competent persons only.	Unplug machine before cleaning. Avoid contact with hot parts. Do not allow unauthorised repairs. Use only compatible replacement parts.

PRECAUTIONS:

The following precautions are to be observed in areas where these procedures are carried out.

