

PRESSURE WASHER FAQs

What is a pressure washer?

A pressure washer is an outdoor power tool that makes cleaning easier by using a high-pressure spray of water to clean a surface. A gasoline engine or electric motor drives a pump, which is supplied by your home's water supply. The water enters the pump at about 50 PSI, is compressed (and thus pressurized) inside the pump, and exits the pump at as much as several thousand PSI, depending upon the unit. This high-pressure water travels through a hose to a spray gun. The nozzle at the end of the spray gun directs the high-pressure spray as you clean. The force of the high-pressure spray loosens dirt and flushes it away. On more professional-grade models, the spray is even powerful enough to strip paint, which is useful in paint preparation. You can use many detergents with a power washer, too,

What is "PSI" and "GPM," and why are they important?

PSI is short for "pounds per square inch." It is a measure of the water pressure coming out of the pressure washer. A typical garden hose dispenses water at about 50 PSI, and a coin-operated car wash provides about 700 PSI. A power washer, by contrast, typically dispenses water at several thousand PSI, depending upon the model. GPM stands for "gallons per minute," and describes how much water is flowing through the power washer.

You'll find both of these ratings on a pressure washer, because they're both important. Together, they provide your pressure washer's cleaning power. PSI provides the "oomph" you need to lift dirt and grime, and GPM provides the necessary quantity of water to wash it away. The real measure of a pressure washer's cleaning power can be found by multiplying PSI by GPM. The higher the number, the greater the cleaning power. For example, a garden hose delivering water at 50 PSI and 5 GPM has a cleaning power of only 250. A pressure washer, however, delivering

How do I select the right pressure washer?

The first question you should ask yourself is where you intend to use the pressure washer—at home or at work. A pressure washer used primarily at home probably doesn't need to be as powerful as one that is used on a job site. Around the house, for example, you shouldn't need more than 3100 PSI. To be fully productive on the job site, though, you probably need at least 3100 PSI. If you're looking to simply take the dirt and grime off the driveway or patio furniture, you can use a unit with a relatively low pressure—perhaps 2800 PSI. If, however, you plan on scrubbing mold and mildew off concrete, or prepping a house for painting, you should consider a unit with a higher pressure. Finally, think about how much cleaning you will be doing. If you're cleaning a number of items, or if you

Why Generac pressure washers? Isn't Generac a generator company?

You're right—Generac's primary focus has been designing and manufacturing generators for residential, commercial. Nonetheless, back in the early 1990s, we applied our knowledge of air-cooled engines and portable product design to pressure washers—it was a natural evolution. And for the first time pressure washers were readily available to consumers at a price they could afford. Along the way, we were granted several patents that have since changed the industry. We also managed to capture about half the US market for pressure washers. About ten years ago, we sold our portable products business—which included pressure washers—so we could focus our resources on developing Generac home standby generators. It was a strategic decision that yielded fantastic results; we've grown to be the world's largest provider of home standby generators. It's an achievement we earned in no small measure by addressing the needs of our customers. Now we've applied those same listening skills to an entirely redesigned family of pressure washers—products specifically designed to meet your needs. Generac conducted research with