

Pressure washers are used on a daily basis at work and at home. Many people underestimate the power of a pressure washer but they can lead to serious injuries when used improperly or if basic safety measures are ignored.

The sheer pressure of water alone is powerful enough to cause an injury. Dirt can be pushed through the skin's surface which can lead to blood poisoning. Other people in the area are at risk of being hit by ejected material. Breathing in contaminated water mist can lead to ill health, not forgetting slips & trips from wet surfaces & trailing hoses

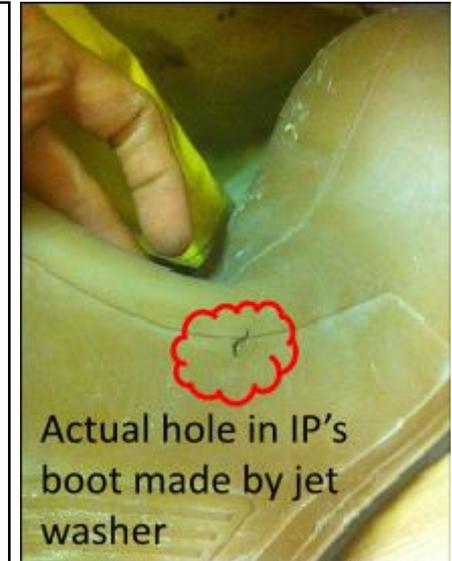
Operating procedures

- Do not depress the trigger until you are sure of where the gun is pointing and use care not to spray your hands, feet or legs.
- Use eye protection, waterproof clothing & gloves
- Don't use cleaners and degreasers that are not intended for use in pressure washers. Never use flammable liquids.
- Think about your surroundings. Who else is in your area? Are they at risk? What about electrical circuits?
- De-pressurise before attempting to remove lance or hose fittings. Never leave a pressurised unit unattended
- Good housekeeping is required at all times. Keep hoses tidy & away from walkways.

DID YOU KNOW?

It only takes 100 psi to penetrate the surface of the skin. Water entering a finger-tip can push dirt as far as the palm of your hand.

An operative was using a diesel powered jet washer (max 3000 psi) to clean out a Bentonite tank. The water jet made contact with his rubber rigger boot, making a small cut and causing a serious water injection injury that resulted in a six day hospital stay. Post-accident testing shows that even at 2000psi a water jet can penetrate thick rubber rigger boots in seconds. Leather boots offer less protection.



Q. What other risks are there from using pressure washers?

Q. Why should you never leave a pressurised unit unattended?

Q. Why should you pay particular attention to how close you are to electrical circuits?